

JOHN BULL

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 16, 1911.

ONE PENNY

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For meaning of
this No. see
Page III. of cover.



*The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull*

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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JOHN BULL.

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Vol. XI. No. 289.

Week ending Saturday, December 16th, 1911.

One Penny.

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AT

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TO-NIGHT (THURSDAY), DECEMBER 14th, at 8 p.m.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 5th, 1912, at 8 p.m.

Chairman: Reginald Knight, Esq.

ADMISSION FREE

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

COMING ROUND?

Is *The Times* coming round to a Business Government? In a recent leading article it states "there is room for some political philosopher to explain the meaning of the crisis in representative government which, though in varying degrees of acuteness, may almost be described as general. For some reason or other there is a widespread removal of old landmarks in politics, and a dissatisfaction with old distinctions, which brings about no little confusion and much blind groping after new combinations." The only new combination which will endure will be that of broad-minded men of business.

A REAL PARLIAMENT.

We spent a very pleasant evening last week at the West London Parliament, which must not be confused with the one at Westminster. The Marylebone Parliament is a *real* one—that is to say, the members use their brains and vote according to their honest convictions. It is an admirably conducted assembly. The Speaker, Mr. R. A. Poddie, fits the part to a nicety, and everybody, from the Prime Minister down to the youngest private member, is imbued with a sense of sincerity. We should like to see a general revival of these most useful institutions. As an educational political force they are unique. On this particular occasion, we were successful in carrying by a two to one majority a motion declaring the present Party system antagonistic to the best interests of the nation. Wonderful how easy it is to carry such a motion when men are free to vote as they think! By the way, one of the personalities of the House is Mr. Cecil Chesterton, joint author with Hilaire Belloc of that splendid little book, "The Party System." There is, also, a very strong Independent party.

THE BIRKBECK BANK.

We are doing our best to induce the Law Officers of the Crown to look into the affairs of this Bank—whose business is now declared by the Court to have been illegal from its inception—with a view to ascertaining whether someone or other is not liable to make good to the members a portion, at any rate, of the losses they have sustained. Their case is a peculiarly hard one, many of them being very badly off.

VERY SPECIAL.

It was an unfortunate slip on the part of a London daily paper to publish in the Law Notices on the very day of Mr. Justice Grantham's funeral a "Special paper," containing several cases to be taken by his late Lordship. Of course, the fault lay with the Law Court authorities as much as with our contemporary.

RAMSAY'S POST.

The general expectation was that Ramsay Macdonald would get the Chairmanship of the Insurance Commissioners; but it is understood that he will take Sir Robert Morant's place at the Board of Education—having, at one time, been a school teacher! That, at any rate, is some qualification.

Please READ THIS.

Have you read our appeal, in another column, for money, clothes, toys, &c., for distribution amongst the poor at Christmas? You will find all about it on page 859, and we again earnestly beg of you, of your charity, to give us a helping hand.

A POPULAR XMAS NUMBER.

What a rush there was on Saturday last for *John and Mary*. In the words of one of the bookstall clerks, it was "the only thing that was selling." It is certainly a wonderful production. And, by the way, how *Mrs. Bull* is going ahead!

THE REV. ALFRED NEWNS AGAIN.

We hear that the unfortunate sufferers who lie in the wards of the Central London Ear and Throat Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, are complaining of the frequent visits of the notorious Rev. Alfred Newns, Vicar of St. Jude's Church, which is adjacent to the Hospital. One patient writes asking us to address an Open Letter "to the confounded sky pilot who runs St. Jude's Church," to let the public know what the inmates of the hospital think of him. "All the nurses and doctors," he says, "are merry and bright, but their cheerfulness is counteracted by the sinister appearance of this 'devil dodger,' who comes in to tell you how lovely it is beyond; just at the time when you want comfort you have visions of coffins. He would be far better employed in giving us a good song or cracking a few jokes, rather than continually croaking about our forgiveness for past sins. Why also should we be cursed with the tolling of his bell night and morning? When one's head is on fire there is nothing to beat a bell for going through it, to jar one's nerves, and open the wounds." We certainly think that the Rev. Mr. Newns would be better employed in remedying these serious grievances than in causing the arrest of innocent women in the streets.

THE THREATENED POST OFFICE STRIKE.

It seems strange that a Government Department making such a handsome profit as does the Post Office should hesitate so long before redressing the many grievances of its employes. It is impossible to deny that there is a great deal of sweating. Ex-army and ex-navy men are paid, in some cases, at the rate of 14s. 6d. a week, advantage being taken of the fact that they draw service pensions. Temporary hands, taken on during times of pressure, are sometimes paid as little as 10s. a week, and 4½d. an hour is the common rate of pay for compulsory overtime. If, before reducing the cable rates for the benefit of the capitalist, Mr. Herbert Samuel would readjust the wages scale in his Department, rumours of a Christmas Post Office strike would soon die away, and there would be less chance of his official initials, P.M.G., being interpreted by his aggrieved staff as Postmaster Must Go!

IS THE INITIAL "B"?

The St. Pancras Board of Guardians is advertising widely for a clerk to the justices of the Petty Sessional Division of St. Pancras, a position worth about £350 a year; and yet, if St. Pancras is like other boroughs, the job is already fixed up. Hasn't some one in power got a son, and isn't that son already selected amongst the candidates provisionally chosen?

THE SILENCE OF BURNS.

Has Mr. John Burns joined the Trappists and taken a vow of perpetual silence, or have the rest of the Government tied up his tongue? If anybody had told us a few years ago that John could go for months on end without opening his mouth or getting a paragraph in the newspapers, we would not have believed him on affidavit. Yet all through the Budget and all through the Insurance Bill the Demosthenes of Battersea has been as dumb as a gate post and as restful as a cemetery. The rumour is that Mr. Lloyd George will tolerate no rival near his throne, and that Mr. Burns, receiving sundry snubs from that celestial quarter, retired sulking to his tent. But rumour is a sorry jade; and it may be that the Cabinet has only enough limelight for one of its members at a time. Even so, it is surely John's turn now—and we expect he'll shortly remind the Prime Minister of the fact.

LUTON MAGISTRATES AND OLD AGE PENSIONER.

A tottering old-age pensioner, by name Amos Burgess, was charged before the Luton magistrates with stealing coal of the value of sixpence. A policeman saw him taking away the coal from his allotment. The old man's explanation was that he noticed the bag there, "and thinking that a trap had been laid for him, he was about to remove it when the constable came up. The bag did not belong to him, and the constable admitted that he had been unable to find to whom it did belong." In other words, there was no owner for the coal, and apparently, for all the police knew, or for all the magistrates knew, or for all the old man knew, somebody intended to make him an anonymous present of it. The police produced no evidence against the man's character; presumably, therefore, they had none. Did the magistrates put Amos on probation? Did they pause to consider that if they convicted him he would lose his 5s. a week from the State? Did they regard the quality of mercy which is twice blessed, as did the Colchester magistrates in dealing with the young man of county family who stole the diamond bracelet? Not a bit of it. Down went poor old Amos for seven days' hard labour, without the option, and his State pension will come his way no more.

THE MONTE CARLO HOARY TALE AGAIN.

Every season the Monte Carlo management, when things are quiet, send out the story of some fortunate one with a "system" breaking the bank—or winning thousands daily—and the bait never fails to cause the gudgeon to rush in shoals to the tables. The alleged lucky winners are usually decoys put up by the bank. The amazing thing is to find our great dailies year after year publishing the concoctions as genuine news!

WANTED.

There is (or was) a splendid opportunity at Herre Bay for a worthy man. Mr. J. E. Burch, clerk to the Blean Union, advertises that the Guardians require a tailor for Herre Common Workhouse "for three or four weeks," board and apartments being provided at the workhouse if required. Particulars of the work to be done may be obtained by application to the workhouse master, and applicants must send three copies of testimonials to the clerk, canvassing being strictly prohibited. On the whole, it seems about the most elaborately conscientious workhouse job we have seen going for some time. It is currently rumoured that the Blean Guardians will presently require a woman to do a day's washing. The daily papers should therefore be carefully watched.

AN EAST-END SOUP KITCHEN.

Is anybody seriously inquiring into the conduct of the "Rev." McLaglen, of High Road, Chiswick, who carries on the Denmark Free Soup Kitchen and the Lady Gordon Day Nursery at St. George's-in-the-East in connection with a religious mission? The reason we ask is that a coadjutor whom he recently prosecuted for stealing money from him, and whom the jury acquitted, alleged that considerable amounts of money came to the "rev." gentleman in response to his begging appeals, but that there is no governing committee, no vouchers, no books, and no receipts, and, according to Mr. McLaglen, junr., no trustees—excepting his father; also that of the money collected while the prisoner was in the "rev." gentleman's employ "not a twelfth went in soup." Mr. McLaglen denied these allegations, but for his own credit's sake, as for the satisfaction of his subscribers, perhaps he will send us his balance sheets, say, for the last three years.

WAGES IN CANADA.

"We have invited the peoples of Europe by trumpet call to come and help us develop our heritage," says the *Montreal Daily Herald*, "and when they arrive we allot to many thousands of them, as well as to many thousands of the less fortunate of our own people, a wage which will hardly keep them living without crime or immorality." This is a view of Canada from a native witness who should know something about it. English citizens need not go to Canada in order to earn wages which will hardly keep them living without crime or immorality; they can get that sort of thing at home.

GLASWEGIAN SCOTCH.

While a certain Glasgow man was in an off-licensed grocer's the other night at 9.15 buying half a muchkin, a policeman came in. A lady entered and asked for a packet of bird-seed, and neither the shopman nor the policeman, in view of recent prosecutions, knew whether or not it was legal to serve her. Wherefore she went to the fruiterer's next door, and got what she wanted, for he was allowed to keep open until 10 o'clock. Afterwards she could have proceeded to an Italian ice-cream shop and sat there until midnight. The case of the Glasgow dairyman who was fined for selling a quarter of a pound of tinned meat at 8.28 p.m. will be fresh in the memory of our readers. How does the guid-guid's law go in Scotland? For instance, what is the latest time for buying haggis and hairpins?

THE BISHOP'S RETIREMENT FUND.

How are Lord Harewood, Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorks, and Sir Hugh Bell, ditto of the North Riding, getting on with the "Bishop of Ripon's Retirement Fund"? "It has been suggested," says the appeal, "that the testimonial should take the form of an illuminated address, accompanied by a purse." As subscriptions are invited from all classes, and as the limit is £5, it is evidently intended that there shall be something in the purse. Let us point out, therefore, that the Bishop was consecrated in 1884, and he has not retired until 1911. For a period of 27 years, therefore, he has held the bishopric at £4,200 a year. His lordship is not retiring from the Church; he is merely retiring from Ripon, a thoughtful Prime Minister rewarding his labours with a Westminster Abbey canonry at £1,000 a year. The Bishop has had to bring up a large family, and what with one thing and another we do not suppose he is a rich man; but surely £1,000 a year is for his old age a cushion which hardly needs stuffing out with a purse.

DREADNOUGHTS AND THE THAMES.

The position of the Thames Shipbuilding Company is regrettable, not merely from the point of view of the shareholders, but also from the point of view of labour and trade in the Thames district. London has a strong claim, a very strong claim, on the Admiralty, for a share of whatever naval shipbuilding may be going. It is true that labour is dearer, and therefore contract prices rule higher. But labour is dearer in London because the necessities of life are dearer in London, and it is not fair to boycott the labour of a capital city because it is dearer. Wherever they are, men have to live according to the ruling conditions and limitations. The Thames shipbuilders pay more for everything; in particular their rates, rent, and food cost more, and as "citizens of no mean city" they are entitled to say that the Thames ought not to be starved that the Clyde and the Tyne should wax fat. Besides, the Thames has its rates and taxes to pay as well as the Clyde. There are exceptions to buying in the cheapest market; if that were invariably the rule, one might question whether all the members of the present Government would be in work.

A SUGGESTION FOR LLOYD GEORGE.

Mrs. Bull has been telling us how the Insurance Bill, by exempting alien servants from the weekly tax unless they have been five years in this country, will increase the demand for foreign servant girls and wipe out English ones as effectually as the foreign waiter has supplanted the English waiter. Is there any reason in this insensate favouring of the foreigner? Instead of exempting foreign servants from the 3d. tax, a 6d. one on all foreign servants and waiters would make the aliens pay something for the liberties and privileges they enjoy here and which are denied them in their own countries. The money they make in England mainly goes back to Germany and Italy, and the foreign servants are already so strongly entrenched that in all our big hotels "No English need apply."

SIR GEORGE LEWIS.

The death of Sir George Lewis removes from the legal world one of its most pronounced personalities, and one who in recent years did his best to purify the law of some of the abuses that have grown around it. It is not generally known, even amongst experts, that Sir George's father was the original from which Dickens drew that impressive character of Jaggers in "Great Expectations." It was, of course, in many respects distorted, the truth being that Dickens had a keen admiration for the great solicitor and his mannerisms. Throughout his life the late William Morris always spoke affectionately of Sir George Lewis by his school nickname of "Young Jaggers." Grantham and Lewis gone in a week! How the *tempus* does *fugit*!

BRITONS, AWAKE!

From a Reserve officer:—"The recent startling revelations surely call for some explanation of the chaos which reigned throughout our Services in time of such grave national emergency. It seems so absurd that our first line of defence (the Navy) should be so distributed that in the event of an ultimatum being delivered (which was seriously thought of at the time) it could have been completely annihilated. Lord Charles Beresford says: 'At the late crisis, the British Fleet was divided. We had no reserve of coal. Thousands of tons of coal was sent from Wales to Scotland because there was none there. We had no military guards over our magazines; only a few policemen. We had no guards over dock-gates and caissons, nor over railways, where the permanent way was liable to be destroyed at a moment of crisis.' On these facts it is manifest that a complete reform of the legislative body must take place. The abolition of the party system and the advent of a Business Government will mark the dawning of a great era, the glorious epoch in our history when we can rest tranquilly, and wonder how we ever permitted the party system to govern uninterrupted, when our dreams of to-day will have materialised and we shall be participants in the glory of our illustrious Empire saved from what seemed irrevocable ruin."

MR. CARNEGIE'S LATEST CLAIMANTS.

What is trade unionism coming to? We knew that that hard-worked body of men, the "hot cross bun makers," had joined the "snow shovellers" in a stern demand for less work and more pay, but when it comes to a Poets' Union—"we cannot," as a profound statesman once said, "but marvel at the strength of human weakness." We notice that the Poetry Society have suggested that "Mr. Carnegie, having filled the land with libraries, should build a Temple of Poetry, and thereby meet the Society's demand for a recital and lecture hall." Of course there are already Hanwell and Colney Hatch, but Mr. Carnegie had better obey, for poets can take terrible revenges. The Laureate might write a sonnet on him!

"BEWARE OF FRIED FISH."

"Your advice to the public to beware of fried fish," says one of the leading Hull fish merchants, "was quite in order, as on Monday, December 4th, in this market alone, there was tons of fish sold for food 21 to 25 days old, which under proper supervision should have gone to the manure factory, also hundreds of boxes of Norwegian herrings." Perhaps Mr. Burns will look into the matter.

SPIERS AND POND'S DINING CARS.

The dining cars on the L. and S.W. Railway are the going concerns of Spiers and Pond, Ltd. The waiters receive a wage of 12s. 6d. a week, and a certain car we have in mind averages 70 meals a day, with four waiters and one steward—who is in charge of the arrangements at 15s. a week. He supervises the serving up of the meals. When they are over, he goes into the saloon, collects the bills for food and extras, and invariably receives a tip, usually sixpence, the waiters getting nothing—except 1s. 6d. or 2s. a week, which the steward gives them if he likes the look of their faces. Two of the waiters are married men, and on these disclosures it may be that Spiers and Pond will want to know *why* they are married. How dare they!

BLEEDING THE LAMB.

Not long ago Messrs. Major and Co., Ltd., a firm trading at Hull, Wolverhampton, and Chesterton, were asked by Somerset House why a clerk in their service had received £2 12s. from a customer without affixing a stamp to the receipt. As the clerk had left the firm's employ his evidence could not be obtained, and Somerset House therefore demanded the £1 penalty. Subsequently the firm ascertained that the £2 12s. had been paid to the clerk at a corn market. Having no stamps with him, he informed the customer that the stamped official receipt would be posted from the office the same night. The proper receipt was sent off accordingly, and afterwards produced by the customer. Somerset House was informed of these facts, but their reply was that the explanation did not relieve the firm from the penalty. We have not heard whether Messrs. Major paid or not, but the attitude of Somerset House savours so much of hocus-pocus, whether technically right or not, that in their place we should have been strongly inclined to give them a run as far as the Law Courts for their money.

FIRE CLAIM AT ROWLEY REGIS.

A Mr. A. F. Woodfall, of Trinity Street, Old Hill, Rowley Regis, recently had a fire at his carpenter's shop, and the District Council sent in to him a claim for the brigade's services. Mr. Woodfall wishes to know why. He says that when his man went for the fireman he had to wait until a customer was served before he could get any attention. He was then told that he could not have the fire brigade that week. As the fire would probably be out by the following week, with ordinary luck, he was sent to Lieutenant Harris in Trinity Street. When the man arrived at the lieutenant's he was told that the gallant warrior would be in presently. After the man had returned to the scene of the blaze and put out the fire with extraneous help, the lieutenant arrived—by himself. He brought no fire appliances. And this being so, says Mr. Woodfall—well, if it be all true, why should the poor man pay for a brigade that never arrived, and for services at a fire somebody else put out? We note that Mr. Woodfall's complaint is referred to a subsequent meeting of the Council for the attendance of the brigade captain. Meanwhile, Mr. Woodfall had better send in a counter-claim for messenger's shoe leather and intellectual and moral perturbation.

L.C.C. IMPUDENCE.

Some people want inspecting as little as possible; others want them to be inspected as much as possible. We venture to think the L.C.C. should inspect some of its inspectors. In the early part of the current year the London County Council commenced laying out a number of small dwellings at East Acton, advertising that they would be ready about the end of the year, and that applicants desirous of renting any of these tenements could obtain a form from the manager. One of our readers got a form, and answered a number of questions exhaustive of everything except his birth mark and the way he did his hair; he also gave as references a vicar and his present landlord. Last week a representative of the L.C.C. called upon our reader's wife in the morning "and impudently demanded to come in and examine the premises." The good lady was at her washing, and at once told him it was not convenient to show him round, whereupon we are informed the inspector abruptly turned upon her with the words, "Shall I cross your name off?" "Well, if that is the treatment I am to expect from the London County Council, you had better do so," retorted the lady, and apparently he did. This sort of thing needs a defence, and we are rather curious to know what it is. But it is a fair illustration of what will happen when the State is the "landlord" of our homes.

WAR MEDALS ARE CHEAP TO-DAY.

It is an accepted axiom with a patriotic public that nothing but dire necessity will induce a British soldier or sailor to sell his medals. But, seeing that there are over thirty thousand specimens of the South African war medals still lying unclaimed at the Woolwich Ordnance stores, it does not exactly look as though Tommy or Jack was very keen about sporting his good service badge, after all. To be sure, since practically the entire British army was presented with these little tokens, the possession of one of them in reality confers no very separate distinction. Seeing that the sentimental value of a war medal has become so greatly cheapened nowadays, how would it be, after our next big war, to issue them for compulsory wear, not by every man who had been at the "front," but by those who had not?

THE ILLEGAL FIST.

Man is born unto sorrow as the sparks fly upward; and one of the genus born that way is George Bye, of Bilhay Street, West Bromwich. His cart having broken down, he borrowed another, and thinking he was complying with the letter of the law, he wrote his name and address upon paper and stuck it on the vehicle. Up came an observant policeman, noticed the improvised placard, and brought Bye to the court of justice at Wednesbury for "driving a cart with no name and address upon it." The bench did not think the man had complied with the requirements of the Act, but let him off on payment of costs. What Bye should have done when he borrowed the cart was, of course, to buy a tin of best white paint, and dab his name and address in tremendous letters on it; but not being an artist, and probably not having half a day to spare, and possibly being afraid the owner would sue him for maliciously damaging his property, he didn't. We trust this case will be regarded as a warning to others. What the law wants is paint, not ink.

MONTESQUIEU ON PARTY.

"They have no fixed purpose, but govern from day to day. Purely selfish and destitute of all principle, their sole aim is to get the better of their opponents; and to attain that end they would sell England and all the Powers of the world."

A BAD APPOINTMENT.

Whatever be the defects of the Insurance Bill, it is sure to be administered at its worst by the Chairman, Sir Robert Morant, who, during his tenure of office as chief permanent official of the Education Board, has made elementary education in England about the worst in the civilised world. His action in the matter of the Holmes circular revealed him in a light that ought to have at once led to compulsory resignation. It is another grave scandal that this egregious failure of the Education Office should be pitchforked into the job of Chairman of the Insurance Commissioners and given an increase in salary of £200 a year.

JUSTIFIED.

Having moved the rejection of the Shops Bill when it was originally introduced into the House, we are gratified to observe that in the end all the objectionable features to which we took exception have been dropped, and only such clauses passed as are reasonable and necessary. Perhaps those who scoffed at the time will now give us their prayers.

TAXI-DRIVERS' GRIEVANCES.

It is suggested to us that the most effective remedy for the present grievances of taxi-drivers—and they are many and real—would be the withdrawal of some of the superfluous taxis from the road. This, however, is a drastic plan, and one which we should not care to advocate without a good deal of consideration.

A BIBLE MYSTERY SOLVED.

LLOYD GEORGE PROVED TO BE THE "BEAST" OF "REVELATIONS"!

It used to be a favourite speculation of scriptural prophets of the Baxter and Cumming type to endeavour to find out who is the "beast," mentioned in the Book of Revelations, having "the number of a man," his number being 666. Some said it was Nero, others were sure it was Napoleon, but how near Mr. Lloyd George comes to the mystic number may be seen in the following:—

L is Roman numeral for	..	..	50
L " " " "	..	..	50
O stands for	..	..	0
Y " letter of alphabet number	..	..	25
D " Roman numeral for	..	..	500
G " letter of alphabet number	..	..	7
E " " " " "	..	..	5
O stands for	..	..	0
R " letter of alphabet number	..	..	18
G " " " " "	..	..	7
E " " " " "	..	..	5
Total	..	..	667

It is no valid objection that the number is 667 instead of 666, for has not Mr. Lloyd George "gone one better" than any other statesman? Besides, it is said of the "beast" that "he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him," and "deceiveth them that dwell on the earth"—that "he caused all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads; and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." What more graphic description can we have of the proposals of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, affecting as they do the right hand of the workman, the brains of the professional man, and the transactions of the man engaged in trade?

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["Taking the Biscuit" has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column, we present, in all good humour, this token to such of our contemporaries and others who may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.]

For the following notice, printed at the foot of an entertainment programme: "Ladies are asked to kindly remove their hats so as not to obstruct the view of those in front."

THE OTTERY ST. MARY CHURCH INSTITUTE
HALL AUTHORITIES
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For announcing the entries for the November and December examination of the "Institute of Charitable Accountants,"

THE CITY PRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in the "Essex Weekly News": "Wanted, 2 STINKING Old Billy Goats,"

"LUCAS (LOUGHTON HALL FARM, LOUGHTON)"
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing for sale by auction "12 Antique Cups and Saucers . . . Antique Mahogany Barometer," and stating that: "This sale is especially worth the notice of persons furnishing, inasmuch as everything was purchased NEW only fifteen months ago."

MESSRS. WILLIAM J. VILLAR & CO.
(17, The Crescent, Taunton)
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For printing on the Strand Hoarding, "Why is this animal LIKE JOHN BULL—because there is NOTHING LIKE IT IN THE WORLD."

THE PUBLISHERS OF "JOHN BULL."
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For describing a missing man as "about five feet ten inches high . . . thick-set and SOMEWHAT SHORT,"

THE MORNING ADVERTISER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following statement: "The engagement is announced of Frank Arthur Searle-Hinton, eldest DAUGHTER of Mr. and Mrs. James Searle-Hinton, 'The Pines,' Alton."

THE HAMPSHIRE OBSERVER & BASINGSTOKE
NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in a description of a meet of the Atherstone Hounds, that "a big field was in attendance on Mr. Bouch, who, in the absence of Lord Huntingdon—the latter being unfortunately laid up—carried the horn to the dog hounds. . . . Among the field were LORD HUNTINGDON," etc.,

THE HINCKLEY TIMES AND BOSWORTH
HERALD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that, at a recent wedding, "The bride looked very MATERIAL, turned out with BLUE and neat in a dress of SLATE-COLOURED WHITE,"

THE DEVON AND EXETER DAILY GAZETTE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing: "The annual sale of work to provide funds towards the EXTINCTION of the Trinity Presbyterian Church,"

THE NEWCASTLE EVENING CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that, on the occasion of the recent football match between Stoke and Queen's Park Rangers: "The game was abandoned three minutes before the finish owing to the hostile attitude of the GROUND, who broke on the field of play, surrounded the referee and the visiting players, and prevented any further play."

THE SUNDAY CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

ROCKEFELLER RASCALITIES.

"THE RICHEST BAPTIST ON EARTH," AND HOW HE ACHIEVED THE DISTINCTION.

[This is the first of a series of articles, showing how the Rockefeller riches were amassed—by bribery, trickery and corruption—whilst the chief actor in the conspiracy was disguising his malpractices under the cloak of religion.]

On December 4th *The Times* New York correspondent wired: "By resigning to-day his presidency and directorship of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, Mr. John D. Rockefeller severed his official connection with the vast network of oil and other corporations which he and his associates conceived and developed."

A FINE OF SIX MILLIONS.

A storm of indignation against the methods of the Trust in the United States broke upon the heads of the oil magnates on August 3rd, 1907—its subsidiary, the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, accused (as had been so many of its fellow offshoots) of conspiracy and the obtaining of illegal discriminations from railroads, being convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of nearly six million pounds!

AN INQUITOUS TRICK.

As the railway rebate scheme is one of the principal tricks upon which the Rockefellers have built their fortunes, a description of it may not be out of place. Its mode of working was as follows: Agreements were entered into with the railway companies, by which the Trust consented that the rate for the carriage of petroleum should be raised, and that, in consideration of the lines being guaranteed a certain amount of traffic per annum, they undertook to give the Standard Oil people a rebate in their charges for carriage of from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent., not only on their own oil, but on that of all their competitors! They further consented that the Oil Trust should act as agents for the railroads in the unloading, trans-shipment, and storage of the oil both of their own production and that of their rivals. By these means Mr. Rockefeller and his associates were speedily able to kill all competition.

The real consideration—the nominal one being quite inadequate, as there was nothing to prevent the railroads from raising their rates without the permission of the Trust—for this iniquitous and illegal bargain is generally held to have been the profuse distribution of baksheesh, and striking confirmation of this allegation was obtained from Mr. Frank Rockefeller (brother of "Jawn D.," as he is usually called in the States), who once testified that his belief was that the heavy "discounts" (calculated to amount to over a million pounds sterling per annum!) were to be divided between the Trust and the principal railroad officials personally.

AN ENGLISH BRANCH DIRECTOR AND ARSON.

The principal English branch of the Rockefeller Standard Oil Trust is the Anglo-American Oil Company.

The other subsidiary of the Trust operating in this country is the Vacuum Oil Company, registered at Somerset House in 1901, with a capital of £55,000, among its directors being Mr. C. M. Everest, who was a principal in as pretty a little plot as ever disgraced American "trade" methods. In 1879, H. B. and C. M. Everest (father and son), who were the owners of the Vacuum Oil Works, Rochester, New York, sold the controlling interest to the Standard Oil Company, they themselves having seats on the Board of the new concern, and also acting as managers at a salary. Several of their old employés decided to set up in business on their own account, and started the Buffalo Lubricating Oil Company. The younger Everest threatened them, and tried to get a man named Miller, the cleverest of the partners, to leave the new concern. The elder induced

Miller to accompany him to his attorney, Mr. Truesdale. "OTHER WAYS TO GET OUT OF IT."

Mr. Truesdale subsequently swore that he told Miller that if he had entered into a contract with his new partners there would be liability to pay damages for its breach if he were to join the Standard people. Everest then said that he thought he saw "other ways to get out of it," adding significantly: "Suppose we arranged the machinery so it would bust up or smash up, what would the consequences be?" The lawyer advised that if it were "carelessly, negligently done, not purposely done," there would be liability only in damages, but if wilfully done there would, of course, be a criminal penalty. Everest replied that he thought there would only be civil liability, and he asked Mr. Truesdale (who was a police justice) to look up carefully for him the law on the point.

UNFAIR ATTEMPTS TO OVERWHELM A RIVAL.

Miller then twice blew up a still in the Buffalo Works by over-heating. He was for a year kept by the Vacuum Company in the retreat to which he absconded, whilst that company endeavoured to overwhelm the Buffalo people by actions for infringement of patents. All these suits were decided in favour of the new concern except one, in which 3d. was awarded the Vacuum Company for damages. Then the Buffalo firm charged the Vacuum directors, including the Everests, with criminal conspiracy. The Rockefeller wealth was poured out on legal talent, and the directors, other than the Everests, were acquitted on the ground that it could not be proved that they had advised Miller to blow up the Buffalo Works. The Everests were convicted, and after delaying justice for two years, as only American millionaires know how, the judge merely sentenced them to pay fines of £50 each. A civil action brought by the Buffalo Company was settled by the Vacuum for £17,000.

BRIBES TO SENATORS, LAW OFFICIALS AND JUDGES.

As was proved by the letters Mr. Hearst published in 1908, the bribes of many thousands of pounds of the Standard plutocrats influenced the appointment of the attorney-generals and judges in the various States; indeed, the Annual Report for 1899 of the Governor of the State of Ohio records six distinct attempts by them to bribe his predecessor to withdraw suits entered against the Standard branch for that State.

THE FLASH-POINT SCANDAL.

But the scandal with which the Oil Trust is usually associated in this country is the manipulation of the flash-point—the temperature at which the oil will give off explosive vapour—by means of which the Rockefellers were allowed to dump here the "murder oil" forbidden to be used in America, and, indeed, in every other country in Europe.

WHY HAVEN'T THE GOVERNMENT MOVED?

Although all the members of the present Government then in the House voted in favour of the raising of the flash-point to the safety line, and whilst the Home Office has appointed a Departmental Committee to investigate the methods of storage and transit of petroleum (any restriction in regard to which would be in favour of the Oil Trust), since the Liberal Party came into office it has not found time to introduce a simple Bill which would protect the lives of those who use lighting oil in this country!

As Mr. Henry D. Lloyd has well observed of the concerns controlled by "The Richest Baptist on Earth," "The Oil Trust is evangelical at one end and explosive at the other."

(To be continued.)

HOW ENGLAND LOSES BUSINESS.

AN OLD STORY RE-TOLD.

By NORMAN TIPTAFT.

No, this isn't an article pleading for Tariff Reform as our only hope of salvation, nor has it anything to do with Free Trade; nor, in fact, with any remedies or hindrances which it is possible for the politicians to impose on the country. It is just a matter concerning the average typical English business man. The experience I have to relate is commonplace; the same thing occurs in different industries every day.

A friend of mine asked a manufacturer for an article which it is easily possible to make in England.

"Oh," he said, "we don't make that exact thing."

"Quite so," replied my friend, "but you *could*?"

"Well, I daresay we *could* make it if we tried, but we've sold this other for twenty years now, and so it's hardly worth while."

"But," my friend insisted, "I don't want the other. I want *this*. And not only I but other people want *this*, and if we can't get it from you we must get it from somebody else; aren't you prepared to take orders when they're offered?"

"Um," he said, "wait a bit," and he called the foreman.

"Can you make that?" he said to him.

"Daresay we could," said that worthy, "but we never have made it, and I don't see the use of altering what we're doing. We've got enough work for the present with our regular lines, and it would only be a bother to start on something different."

"Yes, I suppose it would," said the manufacturer—"no, I don't think we can do it."

He tried several others. Always the cry was the same.

"We never have made it—we probably could do it, but—why change?"

I asked a few of my acquaintances who buy for large wholesale houses if they had ever had a similar experience.

Had they had a similar experience? They had had dozens. Always, if a novelty were asked for, they first tried the English manufacturer. Nearly always he demurred to have anything to do with a new idea and the orders went abroad.

There is no order too small or too large for the foreigner. No trouble is too great if he thinks there is the slightest possible chance of doing business.

Personally, after trying to find a manufacturer who would take his order in England, my friend got into communication with a French house. They hadn't made the thing before, but they didn't say so until they *had* made a sample, quoted a price, and expressed their thanks for the opportunity of taking the order, assuring him at the same time of their willingness to undertake the manufacture of any new departure there was a market for.

Now that, and that alone, is the secret of the rapid advance of other nations as manufacturers of the goods of which we at one time had the monopoly. It is not a matter of tariffs but brains. Brains will beat tariffs any day. In fact, it is questionable if a tariff devised with the idea of bolstering up obsolete methods is practicable or even desirable.

No tariff would have kept out the American boot, simply because the American had brains enough to make his boot in five different widths against the Englishman's one. Immediately some of the smarter English firms were wise enough to adopt the American's method, the sale of American boots in this country dropped.

No workman can beat the British workman. In the same way, no soldier can beat the British soldier; but as in the Army it is the officer who is inefficient, so in the industrial world it is the man in command who is unfit.

There are, of course, honourable exceptions, and where these exceptions are found, good business is the invariable result. But the British manufacturer as a class (not to mention the British shop-keeper) is working in a groove—often in the same groove that his father and grandfather worked in before him—and, unless he wakes up, gets rid of the silly old superstition that one Englishman is worth three foreigners, and recognises that his competitors are at least as competent, if not more competent, than he is, England, from being the premier manufacturing country of the world, will sink to the level of a third-rate Power.

A TYNESIDE REFORMATORY.

A RE-ORGANISING MOVEMENT—SWEEPING CHANGES OF OFFICIALS—A MIDNIGHT SCENE—A RUNAWAY BOY.

By "HUMANITARIAN."

There is situated on the Tyne a reformatory ship called the "Wellesley," which takes in boys over the age of twelve years of age only. As it goes without saying that in a great many cases those committed to its care are of a younger age than this, the difficulty is got over by having a sort of preparatory school ashore. This school is known locally as Green's Home, and is located in South Shields. Green's Home was, until recently, under the care of Superintendent Shierlaw, and had a splendid record. The boys were well looked after, well trained, and, from an educational point of view, always beat those on the ship, while, strange to relate, the staff of masters was immensely popular and highly respected by the compulsory pupils.

A few months ago a change was made, and a Captain Kitecat was appointed to the command of the "Wellesley," which position carries with it the supervision of the school ashore. The reason given was that it was intended to re-organise the methods of procedure in some way.

The so-called reorganisation involved, in the first place, the more or less gradual elimination of all the old officers, these men being replaced by new ones; and after the ship had been so reorganised, the attention of the commanding officer was turned to the school, to such good effect that, despite the splendid record of lengthy service (the Superintendent alone having been there over twenty years), the whole staff received notice to quit. Here also new men were appointed. Things are very much worse at the school now.

At one time the boys were allowed a much greater amount of liberty, and could be met frequently in the streets.

The boys are never out alone now, and when walking in a body a very strict watch is kept that they have no communication with outsiders.

It must not be lost sight of that the boys are nearly all well known to those who reside in the vicinity of the school, who are certain that they are, on the whole, well behaved.

A MIDNIGHT SCENE.

On one occasion in the middle of last summer, about midnight, there arose from the school bitter cries and appeals for mercy, and as the neighbours had all their windows open the disturbance was heard. They were not the cries of one boy, but several, and it was realised that a sort of general punishment must be going on, which, judging from what could be heard, was of a very severe character—anyhow, it was more severe than the people around could stand, and several of them gathered together and went in a body to the gates, and, after pounding away till they made themselves heard above the pandemonium which reigned within, told the officials plainly that, whatever the boys had done wrong, public opinion would not allow them to be so maltreated. The protest had its desired effect, at any rate, so far as noise was concerned, and if any severe punishment is inflicted now, it is done silently. What that may in an extreme case mean, those who read the Akbar disclosures will know.

On another occasion—a Sunday afternoon—a resident witnessed through her window, which overlooked some of the rooms, a boy being several times brutally struck in the face by the official in charge at the time, and straightaway she went over and, having managed to get the door open, told the man in question what she thought of his methods. He slammed the door in her face, and afterwards put some of the boys up at the windows to laugh at her.

A RUNAWAY BOY.

On October 9th several persons were summoned for the offence of supplying some old clothes to a boy, eleven years of age, who had run away from the school. They had to pay the costs of the case, and were bound over. These people told the magistrates that the boy had given them an account of his life in the school, mentioning that if he did not behave himself he would get lashed, and that for running away he would be flogged. He also told them that when they were flogged, and they bled, salt was rubbed into the wounds. I have seen some of the people and they repeated their statements to me, saying at the same time that they questioned the boy very closely on these details, and, from his replies, had no doubt he was speaking the truth.

The sooner these reformatories are taken out of the hands of private individuals, who treat them as profit-making concerns, and placed under proper Government control and supervision, the better. It is amazing that they should be allowed to exist in their present state.

LABOUR WAR OF 1912.—II.

LABOUR PREPARATIONS—THE RESULT OF OUR ENQUIRIES.

[In these articles we are giving the result of enquiries by our Special Commissioner into the causes of Labour unrest, and the strength of the respective forces of Labour and Capital in the coming struggle.]

Our first article dealt with the Railwaymen. There are two other trade unions which count in a life and death struggle with the masters. They are the Miners and the Transport Workers.

THE CASE OF THE MINERS.

Coal is the source of every motive power worth mentioning. Without coal our great industries would come to a standstill. Without coal our huge fleet would be rendered absolutely useless. We wonder if this fact has ever struck the Government. The miners are fully aware of it, and, what is more, they openly discuss their power over its supply.

The work of the miner is of the most strenuous description, and the conditions he labours under are about as bad as they can be. Some pits he works in are hot and charged with foul air; in such his only clothing is a loincloth. In some the small-coal dust hangs like a fog, and gets into every pore of the skin. Other pits are wet, and he must work all the day long ankle-deep in water. Colliery owners admit the hardships of a miner's life.

HOURS AND WAGES.

No other trade presents such variations as that of the miner. We doubt whether two pits are to be found in the whole of the United Kingdom where coal is got under precisely the same conditions. Piece-work is the general order of the day. Those who attempt to fix the average wage of a miner are sure to come to grief. We have made enquiries from many Labour leaders in order to ascertain it, and each has given a different answer. The miners, of course, tell a very doleful tale, and their wives add even more pitiful details. Taking all things into consideration, we place the average wage earned by a miner at 30s. a week. Of course, there are many men who do not average 20s., but these do not use the pick. The number of hours worked is eight, and the men claim that the eight-hour shift, as at present constituted, is cruelty, and miners' wives simply curse it. In some homes it happens that father and sons are working at the same pit, and all on different shifts. As one poor woman put it, "We keep open house; as fast as one comes home, another one goes out. There is no rest. Life is one continual struggle, for I must get all their meals prepared."

The demand of miners is for the establishment of

A MINIMUM WAGE.

This question has been considered by the South Wales Conciliation Board, and has been rejected by the Mine-owners. It seems a pity, for the men declare that if a fair day's wage were established all source of friction would be removed. Many times was it pointed out to us that piece-work is the curse of the miner's life, as it entails the never-ending cutting of rates.

With some of the miners in the Rhondda we argued that perhaps the masters could not afford to give the minimum wage asked. While we were thus engaged, a bent but wiry man pushed his way forward and, pulling out of his pocket a press cutting, asked us to read. We did, and the dirty little bit of paper told us that the dividends paid to colliery shareholders for pits in South Wales during the past ten years averaged 15 per cent. "We want some of that 15 per cent.," said the little bent figure, and the other miners who stood around listening to the conversation with set faces exclaimed: "Yes, by God we do, or we'll ——— up the mines." This is the sort of spirit which prevails.

We are not alarmists, but with the evidence we have before us we warn the Government that the men are thoroughly in earnest in their determination to push their demands to the bitter end. Hitherto their leaders have been able to keep them under control. The present feeling amongst them, however, all points to the fact that those whom they have hitherto regarded as leaders have now practically become followers.

In a few days' time a ballot of miners will be taken to ascertain whether there shall be a national stoppage. Whatever may be the result of that ballot, if the masters persist in their present attitude we shall see the commencement of the greatest industrial struggle the world has ever known. A serious pronouncement, no doubt; but we have well weighed our words.

In the event of the miners deciding in favour of a national strike, such a stoppage would affect all other industries. As we have said, to carry on the trade of this country we must have coal. Colliers can't be made out of unskilled labourers, as could railway porters, and such a person as a "blackleg" collier is quite a rarity. Should the stoppage take place, the Government are, therefore, bound to step in. In another article we will show what the authorities are doing in the way of the provision of force. Troops are all very well to protect non-unionists, or even to work the railways, but soldiers employed in regard to a national miners' strike would be absolutely useless except to guard the pits from damage. There would be no non-unionists to protect, and to send soldiers down the shafts to act as miners would be the height of folly.

If the ballot gives a verdict in favour of the continuation of work, it would merely ensure an armed truce for a few months. The men will continue to work only in order to get their organisation more perfect, and will then link up with the Railwaymen. Already some of the more advanced members of both these unions are mapping out a scheme whereby one body will help the other.

THE TRAGEDY OF THE MINE.

The miners have grievances other than wages and hours. The number of lives lost is appalling. The men claim that the daily Inspectors, who are servants of the colliery companies, should be certified and practically selected by the men and paid by the Government.

We have been able to touch only the fringe of the Miners' and the Railwaymen's grievances. The most pathetic side we have reluctantly been compelled to leave untold. We refer to the sad plight of the poor women and children. The wretched housing conditions of some of these miners are a disgrace to civilisation. The men swear the reckoning day is near at hand.

THE TRANSPORT WORKERS.

The third trade union that matters in an industrial war is the Transport Workers' Federation. This movement is international. Recently its members have been on strike. They returned to work victorious. The only reason for mentioning them here is the possibility of their, in the near future, throwing in their lot with the Miners and Railwaymen. Such a step is strongly advocated by some of the most level-headed men in the movement, and from what we are able to gather, in the event of the Miners and Railwaymen not getting a reasonable settlement within a certain date, we shall see these three all-important unions "down tools."

Next week we will consider what Capital has to say.

"MORE TROUBLE IN THE SALVATION ARMY."**WHERE ARE THE TERRIBLE TEN?**

[Our rejoinder to denials of the truth of our allegation that most of the characters in the Salvation Army's recent inspired book, "Broken Earthenware," are myths.]

We have received one or two letters from correspondents contradicting the statement made in JOHN BULL, to the effect that the notorious characters whose salvation is given as the reason for a striking appeal to the Christian world in a book entitled "Broken Earthenware," are practically not in existence. We stand by that statement. Further investigation reveals some suggestive facts connected with the corps by whom the "terrible ten" were supposed to be "converted." But for the moment the following will suffice:

1. A reference to the files of the *War Cry* during the superintendence of Adjutant Kate Lee, Adjutant Jordan and Adjutant Henderson shows that not ten, but nearer three hundred, burglars, thieves, housebreakers and wife deserters were "saved." Details concerning the lives of many of these "saved" are set forth in shocking bad taste.

2. A recent visit to the "birthplace" of these characters shows that not eight of all these hundreds are on the books of the corps; that not one of "the original terrible ten" belongs to it now; that the congregations have dwindled by 65 per cent., and that the history of the notorious "terribles" supplies a very serious reflection upon the sensationalism of the Salvation Army. One of the loudest orators of the brigade of "terribles" ran away to Cardiff from his wife and family, and cohabited for some time with a servant girl. The elopement was arranged while a great Salvation meeting was in progress. Another of the "terribles" was given employment out of sympathy by the Borough Council of Hammersmith. Within a few weeks he was caught by the police for a crime which he must have committed while in the uniform of the Salvation Army.

3. "Puncher," the hero of the book referred to, and a fine sporting lad, was not saved by the Army. He was "changed" in prison before he had any contact with it. For the last six months he has not been seen at the old corps. "Puncher" has learned something.

4. Of the number still standing, one or two go about demonstrating at the Army's expence, but these do not belong to the original gang, and are only linked together to sustain the general fiction. It gives us no pleasure to expose the fact that men who were once moral pests to the community have not been permanently influenced by the idealism of the Christian religion, as that religion is expounded by General Booth.

AN OBLIGING INSTITUTE.**HOW TO BECOME A CERTIFICATED CHAUFFEUR.**

The following advertisement is taken from the *Edinburgh Evening News*, and is appearing in other newspapers:

MOTOR car driving.—Beginners' opportunity; £2 wkly. earned; enclose envelope.—Holden, 11, Green Avenue, Blackpool.

The Holden referred to is the Secretary of a concern called The Institute of Chauffeurs and Motor Men. A lady reader, having read the advertisement, wrote to him, and in reply received printed matter which led her to believe that, upon taking out a membership certificate at the cost of 4s., her son might expect to obtain a situation as motor driver through the assistance of the Institute. Accordingly she sent the money, and in reply received a "Membership Certificate," which went on to say that (although the Institute had not seen the son) it was "able to recommend him for any berth he applies for." Armed with this document he went to a large garage in Edinburgh, where, of course, he was told that the certificate was useless since it could not be accepted as a guarantee of the ability or character of a person unknown to the writer of it. Our correspondent thinks that she has spent her 4s. for nothing, and that the printed matter sent to her by the Institute of Chauffeurs and Motor Men is highly misleading. We agree with her.

"GERMANY MUST BE STOPPED."**A TEUTONIC TRIBUTE.**

[Our recent articles under this heading have brought us many communications. This week we publish two of them—one, a rejoinder (whether real or imaginary we cannot say) from an alleged Teuton; the other, an uncomplimentary estimate of the quality of the German soldier, by a private in the Cape Mounted Police.]

Your article "Germany must be stopped" I read. Well have you in der courts of der Faderland skunk-paper, been called. Do I vlatteer you? Yes. You are a two skunkpapers. Yah! Now do I vlatteer you still? Yes. But you 'ave libel-laws and law courts' processes, and lest money from good German pockets into base goffers flow, I vill my mouth geep shut. You ave great Colonies. But der more you build shibs der more also of shibs we build also. So vhat is der use? We love you if you shall not ave build more shibs, except your Skunkpaper who stir up war. I read der *Daily News*. He vish to stir up war between England and France now. Dat is goot. It is ordained dat Beace shall reign. We ave a Crown Brince who vill not climb down like der Kaiser has done. If you should have scrapped all your shibs we should ner do the same, for we ave Colonies to brotect, but there is Winsdon Churchill at der Navy instead of Macgeanna, which makes us to keeb der eyes sginned. But you are a skunkpaper. It shows vat in der Faderland of you they think dat you have been dishonoured so begause you do not invite I rotherhood and universal beace. My fader live in Stuttgart but I am waiter in London, and I know you skunk people, and I read your skunkpaper begause he make me vild. I kick you with my heels and you can bublish me if you dares. It is no use disseminate lies in your skunkpaper for no one will believe you. We ave gonscription and I bear arm, but it is not to attack France but to brotect our Colonies. Now ave you convinced? [Convinced of vhat?—Ed.]

THE GERMAN SOLDIER.

This is what a Cape Mounted Police private thinks of the German soldier:—

There is one point of which I trust you will not forget to take notice—viz., that German soldiery, both officers and men, are just about as fearful of our army as they can be. I have seen German soldiers fighting in German South-West Africa, where, by the way, they, with about 15,000 troops, were utterly unable to suppress less than 2,000 unmounted and badly-armed Hottentots, and if the three or four battles in which I saw them engaged were anything like fair specimens of the fighting of the German army, then God help that army if ever it tackles our own. Neither officers nor men have the faintest idea of taking cover, the men are the worst horsemen I have ever seen, and the way the horses are fed, watered and ridden is simply disgusting. I can safely say that nine men out of ten of the army in German South-West Africa were compelled to hang on by their spurs and pummels to prevent falling off. I have ridden with them in races and otherwise, and I know. Is this the sort of army that is going to invade England? Even if the men could ride and shoot and take cover when fighting, they would not be very much good, for, all said and done, they are driven to fight like so many animals, and as soon as they got a chance would make all haste to get out of it. As a matter of fact, from officers downwards, each rank treats those below it as dogs, and everybody is dead frightened of his superior. Why! I believe that I, with 50 men, could wipe out any 500 Germans opposed to us.

"JOHN BULL'S" CHRISTMAS PRESENT SCHEME.

We are actively proceeding with the heavy work of collating and scrutinising the coupons sent by the readers who have been engaged upon the task of hastening the increase of our circulation to a million copies per week, and we hope to make the distribution in good time for Christmas.

"BRAININE."

The only Cure for Brain Fag, "Nerves" and "Worry."

See advt. page 893.

A BAPTIST MISSION SCANDAL.—I.

HOW NATIVES ARE PREPARED FOR THE MINISTRY.

BY OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

(Our Special Commissioner unearths a Baptist negro missionary scandal and also exposes the futility of the mission.)

A few days ago I received amongst my morning's letters two communications which aroused my curiosity. The first read as follows:—

XMAS APPEAL, 1911.

The African Institute has now forty-three mission stations in Africa, 4,200 Christian Converts, and over 2,000 enquirers. The success has been marvelous (sic). The great idea of the Institute is to send the light of civilisation and the Gospel to the 600 tribes of that dark continent, let their own sons and daughters speak to each tribe in their own language.

To surround the continent by these native preachers is the best plan to carry the knowledge of the glorious Gospel to the two hundred million inhabitants, and to win Africa for Christ.

May this Xmas appeal touch your heart so that you may help in bringing the joy and goodwill of the Saviour to those millions who are still in darkness.

The second was a cutting from the *Colwyn Bay Times* of October 19th. Here it is:—

WARNING.

We are informed that some persons in Colwyn Bay have been busy circulating a scandal respecting one of the coloured young men who are at the African Institute. We have investigated this matter thoroughly, and find there is no truth whatever in their report as far as this young man is concerned. Therefore, we warn such persons lest they should find themselves in the hands of the law.

It is significant that this paper is owned and published by the African Institute. The scandal referred to is the birth of a half-caste child.

This was not the first time I had heard of the African Training Institute, or, to give it its legal title, the British and African Incorporated Association. It was formed in 1889 by the Rev. W. Hughes, who is now a member of the local Council, and was for some years a missionary on the Congo. He states that the cost of a white missionary is from £300 to £500 a year, and by training negroes to convert negroes most of this expense can be saved. The annual report of the Institute for 1910 says:—

It is established with a view of training in this country the most promising of the African Christian converts, and of sending them back to their native land as medical missionaries, schoolmasters, and useful handicraftsmen, such as joiners, blacksmiths, masons, bricklayers, wheelwrights, tailors, printers, etc., and to send out a number of other missionaries on practical and scriptural lines.

I will take each point separately.

MY PERSONAL VISIT TO THE INSTITUTE.

"It is established with a view of training in this country the most promising of the African Christian converts."

I selected Sunday for my visit. I did so because I was informed that Divine service was conducted there afternoon and evening, and that the public were cordially invited to attend. The place stands in its own grounds, in a well-wooded country. The congregation consisted of the Rev. Mr. Hughes, two young Europeans—one a girl, the other a youth—and five negroes. Four of these latter I subsequently found to be students, and the fifth, whose name I understood to be Josiah, was simply there on a visit. Mr. Hughes gave me a cordial reception, and explained that the meeting was a Bible class, and asked if I would like to take part. (I need hardly mention that I did

not proclaim the fact that I was the Special Commissioner of JOHN BULL.)

The second chapter of St. Matthew was read by the rev. gentleman, after which a discussion took place upon each verse. Things went very slowly until we came to verse 19, which speaks of an angel appearing in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. "What kind of an angel was it?" enquired Mr. Hughes. As no one seemed to know, the rev. gentleman supplied the answer. With a smile on his face, he affirmed that these angels who made their appearance to women were in the form of nice young men and vice versa. There was a general titter, and the subject became interesting.

After the service, I got in to conversation with Josiah. He was simply a visitor, not a student—at 14 years of age he was preaching the Gospel in his native land, after which he studied and passed out as a missionary. Getting tired of the work, he returned to this country and took his degree at the Bar. He is now a lawyer. He laughed, and enjoyed the whole business. The other darkeys seemed annoyed. As for myself, I gave Josiah the credit of being an honest man. "So," I said, "you left the mission service and entered the legal profession?" As he did not seem to grasp my meaning, I explained that it was often said that the Devil himself was originally a barrister. So ended my afternoon's call at the institute—and as I strolled to my hotel I conjured up in my mind that portion of the statement of the objects of the institute which says:—

It is established with a view of training in this country the most promising of the African Christian converts. And I exclaimed within myself, "What can!"

THE EVENING BIBLE CLASS.

I was present at the evening Bible class. The European attendance was increased by three young females and one youth. The negro element was minus one. *It was Josiah. Perhaps he was absent by request.* The portion of Scripture selected for discussion was the first chapter of the First Book of Samuel. It was explained by Mr. Hughes that this particular chapter had been selected in order to assist the students in a forthcoming examination. To summarise the chapter in modern language, it deals with a man who had two wives. Of course, he could not divide his love equally. But perhaps the astonishing part of the story is that the one he loved most was childless, while the other one was "blessed" with sons. The "mother" wife, womanlike, used to taunt the "childless" wife, and altogether the husband had a lively time of it—so much so that he said to the wife he loved the more, "Am I not better to thee than ten sons?" Even this did not console her, so she prayed that she might have a son. Her prayer was answered, and so she had her revenge on her co-wife. Anyone looking up the chapter in his Bible will be able to imagine the effect the discussion of it had upon a mixed audience of European girls and "converted" Africans. Please don't let me be misunderstood. I am not blaming these students. They are full-blooded men of fine physique, with intelligence above that of many Europeans. The blame I hope to fix in another article; and I shall endeavour to fix it in a manner which will, I hope, close the doors of many of these so-called Christian Missions.

(To be continued.)

THE COMPLAINT AND THE CURE.

A LEGEND OF ANGLELAND.

BY RICHARD MORTON.

[Mr Morton satirises the appointment of an additional Play Censor.]

Once upon a time, in the kingdom of Angleland, there was appointed a certain great functionary, called the Lord High Chamberlain, who was given two principal duties to perform for the well-being of the State; to wit, he was required to wear very high collars, and to blue-pencil the plays and dramas of the nation.

Now, the Lord High Chamberlain was in no whit averse from the wearing of the high collars, for lo, they suited his neck, and he could wear with comfort a stiff, starched, linen collar that would have cut the throat of any other man. So he was happy in the performance of this first moiety of his duties.

But the second half of his job did not appeal to him. It involved the reading of numberless plays, good, bad and indifferent, and it necessitated the exercise of some judgment as to whether such plays were fit and proper plays for the young person to take her grandmother to see. To be obliged to read, perhaps, three tragedies, half-a-dozen comedies, and a baker's dozen of problem plays before luncheon imposes an intolerable strain upon the brain, is not conducive to appetite, and may bring on a headache.

So the Lord High Chamberlain deputed this half of his work to another. He installed a deputy, and licensed, or refused to license, the dramatic output of genius and of crank by proxy. This deputy was allotted a room in the Stable-yard of the Palace, and was called The Censor.

Having made an arrangement so desirable from his own point of view, the Lord High Chamberlain retired to his turret to try on a few new collars, for a cunning outfitter had brought out a brand in quarter sizes. He was uncommonly happy in forgetting the world, and only hoped the world had forgotten him.

But it was not so. A great outcry arose in the land, and dramatists who were censored by the Censor began to make much stir, and there were many who backed them up.

The Barkers barked at the restrictions imposed upon them; the Bernard Shaws burned with fury; the Gals, worthy and unworthy, refused to be squelched; the Archers shot their poisoned arrows; the Housman lodged his complaint. And there was riot in the mart of the Thespians.

Only the Edwardeses, and the Trees, and the Hickses and the Maudes were content, for the Censor knew what to expect from them, and let it go at that.

But the blue pencil of the Censor came down so heavily on the best work of the complainants that they complained louder than ever, and their voices were echoed in the House that is called of Commons. The Censor meekly explained that his blue pencil merely deleted the passages that were blue, but the complainants retorted that the Censor was colour blind, and that the portions he termed blue were but purple patches.

The din was so great that at length it came to the ears of the Lord High Chamberlain himself, and, in his agitation, he even broke a collar-stud.

Then did he take much thought within himself, and he said, It is plain unto me that I must do something.

The awkward question was, what should he do?

Suddenly he smiled, for his mind was illumined as with a great light. "They are ungrateful," he said, "these men who write plays. I have bestowed upon them a special Censor all to themselves, and yet it seems I have not done enough. They object to this one Censor who so kindly after them. Very well; as they are not satisfied with one—I will give them another."

And it was so.

And the people of Angleland said, considering the complaint, it was the most curious cure they had ever heard of.

"JOHN BULL" ORIGINAL CARTOONS.

OUR SCHEME FOR THE BENEFIT OF "HUMAN DOCUMENTS."

We are now having a considerable number of our original cartoons framed, and they are for sale at One Guinea each—it being our intention to apply the proceeds to the benefit of our "Human Document" fund. Purchasers may indicate any particular cases which they desire to assist, but failing such direction we shall utilise the money in our own discretion.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CLXXII.

[In this column, every week, we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

A MANCHESTER APPEAL.

We have received the following appeal from a Manchester correspondent. Any such assistance will, we are sure, be deeply appreciated:—

I wish to bring before your notice a very sad case. The man has suffered from a mental disease for over twelve months, and has been unable to follow any employment. He is married, with a wife and seven children, the eldest being only fourteen years old, all the others too young to earn any money. There is only six shillings coming into the house for food and rent, and the family are now on the verge of starvation. There is at the present time over twenty weeks' rent owing, but the landlady, a kind-hearted woman, allows them to remain under shelter until they are able to remove. They are a very respectable family, and the man holds an excellent character and is not afraid of any investigation into the circumstances of his case. Their adversity is such that anything in the way of work, clothes or food will be gratefully accepted. I trust the readers of your journal will treat this case with such kindness as it deserves.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CLXIV.—N. S., 5s.
CLXV.—F. G. V., 1s.; C. L. (Pontypridd), 1s. 6d.
CLXVII.—E. E., 10s.
CLXIX.—E. B., 5s.; C. T. S., 2s. 6d.
CLXX.—"Fag," 5s.; "Bournemouth," 10s.; B. C., 5s.; J. E. W., 5s.; F. S., 2s. 6d.; "Punjabi," 1s. 6d.; "Noahy," 1s.; C. W. J. B., 2s.; G. R. J., 2s. 6d.; "Sheila," 5s.; L. J., 5s.; G. F. G., 2s. 6d.; C. L., 1s. 6d.; "Kestrel," 4s. 6d.; P. O. F., 2s. 6d.; J. H. N., 1s.; H. S. G., 3s. 6d.; E. B., 5s.; "Nondescript," 2s. 6d.; "Birthday Present," 2s. 6d.; "We Three," 8s. 6d.; W. T., 1s.; H. M. C., 1s.; J. T. Allen, 2s. 6d.; "Martha," 2s. 6d.; E. S. R., 10s.; A. D., 4s.; "Nebog," 2s.; "Elstow," 1s.; F. W., 2s. 6d.; A. B., 5s.; "Froggy," 6s. 8d.
CLXXI.—S. S. L., 10s. 6d.; "Nebog," 2s.; A. B., 5s.; "Joben," 20s.

In our last issue 20s. was wrongly credited to Human Document No. CLXVII. It should have been credited to No. CLXX.

"JOHN BULL'S" CHRISTMAS FUND.

AN APPEAL FOR A LITTLE CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR THE POOR.

We again make an appeal to the generosity of our readers to enable us, at the approaching Christmas season, to distribute gifts of food, clothing, toys, etc., amongst the London poor. Upon previous occasions the response has been most gratifying, and we feel sure that the same will be the case again this year. First, we want money with which we buy orders upon local butchers, bakers, grocers, and others, enabling the recipients to obtain food and take it to their own homes for consumption, a course much preferable to crowding them into public buildings in the old-fashioned way. Every subscription will be duly acknowledged in our columns. Secondly, we want left-off clothing of all shapes and sizes. This we will have carefully sorted out by the hands of willing workers, and made into suitable "lots," corresponding with numbered orders which will be given by our helpers to those most in need of the things. Thirdly, we want toys for the little ones, to help to brighten their dismal homes at Christmas time. We guarantee that they shall be wisely and well distributed. We can also do with boxes of oranges, sweets, fruit, crackers—in short, anything likely to bring a little happiness, if only for a few days, into the homes of the poor.

All subscriptions should be forwarded to us here, but everything else should be addressed to JOHN BULL'S Depot, 489, Cambridge Road, Cambridge Heath, London, E.

We thankfully acknowledge the following:—X. Y. Z., 2s. 6d.; "Dyke End," 3s.; J. H., 6d.; A. H., 10s.; Private H. M. L., 2s. 6d.; M. and J., 3s.; "Beer," 5s.; H. M. C., 1s.; J. B. M. E., 2s. 8d.; Mrs. A. M. B., parcel of clothing; A. G. C., 10s.; G. A. H. (South Africa) 2s.; "Maltonian," 5s.; "Foggy," 1s. 6d.

SECRETS OF THE HIRE-PURCHASE PIANO TRADE.

By Our Special Commissioner.

REVELATION OF THE TIME PAYMENT SYSTEM—ALLURING ADVERTISEMENTS—HOW THE PUBLIC PAY—THE AGENTS' BITTER CRY.

I have been asked on several occasions lately to devote a little time to finding out how the piano trade is conducted. Every now and again I receive a letter from either a member of the public or some poor, unfortunate representative, complaining bitterly of unfair treatment. The latter usually alleges that he has been misled into giving his time and energy towards building up a portion of one of the great businesses we see all around us in every large town.

I will own that I was always under the impression that the trade was conducted on what, for want of a better expression, would be termed "fair lines." When I started to look into the matter, however, I found that by no stretch of imagination can the business be so described. This indictment does not include the small dealer who, with three or four instruments and an occasional sale, just manages to make a living in an honest, straightforward way, eked out more often than not by music lessons, etc. These men are usually well known to their fellow townsmen, and are as highly respected as any other traders carrying on legitimate businesses.

It is the large multiple firms which are the sinners—firms whose names are a household word, whose advertisements in every paper and magazine prominently state that for the small payment of a couple of shillings a week will be supplied an up-to-date instrument, guaranteed sound in wind and limb, and figuratively jewelled in every movement, and with an endless warranty reaching unto the third or fourth generation. If you visit their headquarters, or one of their numerous branches scattered about all over the country, you are met by an urbane personification of Uriah Heap, who will be only too pleased to waste his valuable time in showing you all the stock in hand "without your being pressed to purchase." After devoting some little time to collecting information, I adopted the rather novel method of going straight to the fountain head, by calling at the chief offices of one or two of such firms. The principals were courtesy personified, even when I had disclosed the nature of my business. "Oh, yes. We shall be happy to give you any information that we can. Our methods are without question the best that skill can devise, and we welcome publicity." When, however, I gave them a few particulars of transactions which I knew had actually taken place in connection with their own businesses, they were somewhat nonplussed. Even then their urbanity did not run dry. I was assured that they had an excellent explanation. In some cases lame justifications were forthcoming; in others—despite the assurance that they would be forwarded in a day or two—I am still waiting, with interest, for the promised letters.

HOW THE PUBLIC PAY.

I will now give a few examples, taking three instruments whose histories I know well. I may say that these are among the cases which the firms seek to justify as "business":—

Organ—March 9th, 1905, sold to Mr. D— for 28 guineas; terms, 10s. per month. August 3rd, 1909, seized for arrears of instalments, though £24 10s. paid.

September 1st, 1909, sold to Mr. P— for 25 guineas; terms, 8s. per month. April 3rd, 1910, seized for arrears of instalments.

August 6th, 1910, sold to Mr. W— for 23 guineas; terms, 8s. 6d. per month. April 6th, 1911, seized for arrears of instalments.

May 24th, 1911, sold to Mr. B— for £24; terms, 8s. per month. Still out, with a balance of £22 owing.

This 28 guinea instrument will therefore realise at least £48.

Upright Piano—January 5th, 1905, sold to Mr. J. J— for £28 10s.; terms, 10s. 6d. per month. October 21st, 1905, seized for arrears of instalments.

November 15th, 1905, sold to Mr. H— for £31 10s.; terms, 10s. 6d. per month. May 7th, 1906, seized for arrears of instalments.

January 22nd, 1907, sold to Mr. G— for £29 8s.; terms, 10s. per month. February 15th, 1909, seized for arrears of instalments.

March 8th, 1909, sold to Miss R— for £27 6s.; terms, 10s. per month. June 21st, 1909, seized for arrears of instalments.

July 13th, 1909, sold to Mrs. W— for £31 10s.; terms, 8s. per month. Still out.

This instrument was thus disposed of four years after first sale for £3 more!

Organ—March 28th, 1905, sold to Mr. S— for £22; terms, 10s. per month. November 20th, 1908, seized for arrears of instalments.

June 2nd, 1909, sold to Mr. M— for £22; terms, 7s. 6d. per month. November 29th, 1909, seized for arrears of instalments.

February 12th, 1910, sold to Mr. H— for £23; terms, 8s. per month. March 21st, 1910, seized for arrears of instalments.

April 2nd, 1910, sold to Mr. L— for £22; terms, 8s. per month. Still out.

In this trade the longer the instrument is out the more valuable usually does it become! Exactly how many pounds has been paid on these instruments it is impossible to compute, for in some cases the books have been destroyed, but there is no doubt that they are fine dividend-earning machines. It reminds me of the story of the man employed years ago at a musical comedy theatre, to whom, for certain reasons, the "young bloods about town" used to stand expensive food and drink. Like "Mr. Umble," in "Peggy," "not wishing to be beholden to nobody," the attendant returned the hospitality by inviting the "young gents" to partake of a supper of cold "trotters," the humble nature of the fare being counterbalanced by the glow following the announcement that the stall was the identical one patronised by King Edward, when Prince of Wales, and "Charlie Beresford," on their "nights out"! It was the invariable practice of the youthful "students of form," after putting their teeth into the gristly morsels, to throw them in the mud, the proprietor of the stall, when they were gone, retrieving the "trotter" and giving them a wash and a careful fresh make-up with vinegar and pepper. The same dozen "delicacies" were said to last for months!

The owners get particularly anxious towards the end of the term if the payments are right up to date. If a default is made they jump at the chance of taking the instrument back again. Then away it goes, sometimes at an enhanced price, merrily on its mission to earn more money for the firm. The prices obtained tell their own tale. It is obvious that the instruments are sold for just as much as can be squeezed out of the customer.

THE AGENTS' BITTER CRY.

Even the poor canvassers get ground up in the universal squeeze, and I have before me the agreements from four different firms. The terms are in most cases commission only, but where a salary is paid it is a miserable pittance—12s. a week in one case and 15s. in another. Even then there are stoppages to be considered; in one case the firm's instructions to managers contain the following clause:—

This agreement requires a sixpenny stamp. We endeavour that the agent pays the cost of this stamp, except in very exceptional cases.

Another deduction, of the use of which the public can judge, is the following:—

We also stop from the commission due to the agent the following amounts, which will be placed to his credit in the Guarantee Fund:—

When the payment due amounts to 10s. and under £1. 1s. 3d.

When the payment due amounts to 20s. and under 30s. 2s. 6d.

When the payment due amounts to 30s. and under 40s. 5s.

When the payment due amounts to 40s. and under 50s. 7s. 6d.

Twenty-four hours' notice on either side shall terminate this agreement, and on the expiration of two years from the date of the termination thereof the moneys still standing to the credit of the agent in such Guarantee Fund shall be paid to the agent, less any sums due or payable on any account whatever from the agent to the company.

I am given to understand that it is a very rare thing for the poor agent to have anything to draw, even after the expiration of the prescribed period. It ought to be possible to square up accounts in as many weeks!

ADDLED ADS.

SOME PECULIAR ANNOUNCEMENTS.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, 1911.

— present entries of

PRIME FAT BEASTS

will include Messrs. W. Jeffreys, Cottles, C. Parrott and others.—(Wiltshire Gazette.)

BIRTH—FIFTEENTH AVENUE buckle, with twelve nuggets soldered the wife of — a son— (Daily Province, Vancouver.)

REMARKABLE DISCLOSURES.

DOCTORS' VIEWS MADE PUBLIC.

Many of the foremost practising physicians of the United Kingdom have now given their opinions on the publicly-important matter of the wine tonic.

Indeed, so decisively have they spoken, that their frank views may be regarded in the light of a verdict. They have considered the matter carefully; many of the opinions are the result of observations extending over a period of many years. And their judgment is that the reliable, proved wine tonic is almost an indispensability to their practice.

Here are some of their statements; given out in authentic interviews, and sworn to as genuine by our interviewer before a Commissioner for Oaths. The doctors' names would be given, too, but for the strictures of medical etiquette:—

EARLY STAGES OF DEBILITY.

"Besides its value in convalescence, I am of opinion that if Hall's Wine were more generally used in the early stages of debility, many serious breakdowns would be avoided. I always tell patients who are showing signs of getting run-down to take a little Hall's Wine, and they seldom need anything else."

(Interview W. 329—July 14th, 1911.)

THE DOCTOR'S OWN DAUGHTER.

"My first experience of Hall's Wine was some years back. My daughter was very slow in recuperating after appendicectomy. Lack of animation due to malnutrition was the most troublesome feature of the case. About this time I had a half bottle of Hall's Wine sent me as a sample, and I was so far impressed with the medical reports accompanying it that I decided to give it a trial. I administered a liqueur glass twice daily. She brightened up almost immediately, started taking ordinary food with a relish and was quickly on her feet again."

(Interview W. 326—July 14th, 1911.)

SAVED FROM A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN.

"I know nothing which so quickly arouses vitality in run-down conditions as Hall's Wine, and there is seldom any after-depression, because the patient is enabled to take ordinary food and thus keep up to concert pitch. One bottle of Hall's Wine (dosage two or three glasses a day) has saved many a patient of mine from a serious breakdown."

(Interview W. 352—July 28th, 1911.)

FOR INVALIDS AND ELDERLY PEOPLE.

"I am a believer in the occasional use of a good wine and particularly with elderly people. My wine merchant always shows me any new tonic wine which is introduced to him; some of them are awful stuff, but I must say we concur that Hall's Wine is entirely reliable. My wine merchant certifies the quality of the wine and I judge of its merits in other respects and I pronounce it good and especially suitable for invalids and elderly people."

(Interview W. 417—Sept. 25th, 1911.)

THE DOCTOR'S WIFE AS PROOF.

"The fact that I allow my wife to take a little Hall's Wine occasionally is a sufficient expression of my opinion of it. It is especially valuable in atony, convalescence and debility. Besides being a nutrient wine, it has a decided sustaining property. Also, in addition to its use in sickness, I advise it to my more robust patients whom I see overdoing themselves, or on occasions when they have to make a strenuous effort."

(Interview W. 320—July 6th, 1911.)

AFTER INFLUENZA.

"I advise Hall's Wine a good deal. It is specially good after influenza and in debilitated conditions generally. I occasionally find several similar preparations in use among my patients, but I always stop them. Because I consider Hall's Wine is the only one to be relied upon for standard quality and specific results."

(Interview W. 380—Sept. 6th, 1911.)

FOR MYSELF OR MY WIFE.

"I have retired from practice and am therefore past advising Hall's Wine, but when I say that I occasionally send for a bottle for myself or my wife, I need say no more by way of expressing my opinion of it."

(Interview W. 363—Aug. 22nd, 1911.)

PARTICULARLY FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE.

"I frequently order Hall's Wine, and particularly for elderly people who need a stimulant. It serves the purpose excellently well and is never abused."

(Interview W. 362—Aug. 22nd, 1911.)

Tonic AND PICK-ME-UP.

"Whenever a patient needs a tonic and pick-me-up I advise Hall's Wine. It has all the necessary stimulating power for such occasions without producing any ill after-effect."

(Interview W. 397—June 1st, 1911.)

TAKE IT MYSELF.

"Besides advising Hall's Wine pretty generally in convalescence, I consider it a very good thing to take when there are signs of getting run down. I always take it myself when I am a little below par."

(Interview W. 360—Aug. 18th, 1911.)

"CONVALESCENCE" OR "RUNNING DOWN."

"I have known Hall's Wine many years. I regard it as a most excellent preparation and never hesitate to advise it in convalescence or when there is an indication of running down."

(Interview W. 317—July 6th, 1911.)

A DOCTOR'S PRECAUTION.

"When I order a special preparation for a patient I make a point of seeing that they get just what I have named. This is the more important with regard to tonic wines, because there is so much rubbish sold with claims of medicinal value. Even some of the more popular ones set up gastric disturbances, so what the nondescript ones do is fearful to contemplate. 'Hall's Wine, with the Red Keystone trade mark,' is what I order, and that ensures the right article being supplied."

(Interview W. 423—Sept. 26th, 1911.)

Hall's Wine

The Marvellous Restorative



"I always advise Hall's Wine when a tonic is required in pre-debility cases, as well as in convalescence after severe illness. I use it myself occasionally. For instance, last week I contracted a slight chill and began to feel shaky, and as I am doing another man's practice, who is away on ho'day, I could not afford to lay up, so I fortified myself with a dose of Hall's Wine on going on my rounds, and it certainly enabled me to battle through all right."

(Interview W.409—20th Sept., 1911.)

Read the other statements by doctors in this advertisement. Then prove their statements: Get a bottle of Hall's Wine from your wine merchant, or licensed chemist or licensed grocer. The large size of the genuine is only 3/6.

HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE ARMY.

By "A BUSINESS MAN."

"A Business Man" makes some novel and interesting suggestions for the improvement and popularising of the Army. We do not necessarily adopt them, but they afford good material for thought.]

The recent crisis in international affairs has once again brought into prominence that usual state of unreadiness which appears to be the characteristic feature of the British naval and military forces.

The question of the Navy is being taken up by powerful and effective hands, but at the moment the Army is being lost sight of by the public eye.

Although not of the same importance, from a defensive point of view, as the Navy, I consider that our Army ought to have better attention, as in the event of any temporary defeat of any portion of the Navy, the existence of an effective and mobile Army might save the country from the unutterable horrors of invasion and occupation. The disclosures of the naval unreadiness in July show that such an invasion is within the bounds of probability.

The Army question has been a thorn in the flesh to successive Governments, and each of them has evolved pet schemes, but apparently to little purpose, and Minister after Minister has given up the task in despair. Even such a capable man as Lord Haldane has to acknowledge that his plans do not meet with the success he expected.

It appears, therefore, to me to be an opportune moment to lay before the people of Great Britain a plan I have considered for a long time, and which, if adopted, would, I hope, have beneficial and far-reaching results.

FRANCE NO LONGER THE DANGER.

Up to about 15 years ago we were apt to look upon France as the source of danger, and our vulnerable spots in national defence were the Thames Estuary and the South Coast. We had also at the same time the risk of a Russian descent on the Indian Frontier. For these reasons we had practically the whole of our Army concentrated at Aldershot, and we required more troops in India than we do now, when the chance of invasion from Russia is so much lessened.

To-day the trouble is Germany and instead of only the South Coast the whole of our East Coast is in the danger zone. In face of this all our troops are concentrated in the South, and there is no distribution of them throughout the country.

Before I proceed with my Army plan might I just fry to drive home the hard fact that Germany must and will have a struggle with Great Britain for the mastery of the seas. Germany has an increasing and prosperous working population, and to maintain their prosperity they must have some portion of the overseas trade. To get this they want easier access to the sea, and their real objective is to get possession of Holland and Belgium, and after that is accomplished they want colonies. If they got Holland they would, of course, get the wealthy Dutch East Indies, but they want more than that.

GERMANY'S LITTLE PLAN.

To get Holland and Belgium, with their great seaports, Germany must first of all be in a position to attack Great Britain, and for this purpose, and for this alone, her great Navy has been created.

Germany will thus go on increasing her Navy incessantly until she thinks she can humble Great Britain, seize Holland and Belgium, and annex what she can of our colonies.

Let Great Britain be prepared for this great hazard, and it can only be done by increasing and maintaining the efficiency both of the Army and the Navy.

The Army must be made a much more effective and adaptive force than it has been, and this can best be done by making it popular with the people.

At present, with about seventy regiments concentrated in the south and only about ten over all the length and breadth of the Kingdom, the great masses of the people are quite out of touch and have practically no sympathy with the troops.

The principal suggestion I have to make is that the Home Army should be quartered all over the Kingdom. I have great faith in the Territorial (in the literal sense of the word) idea. We ought to have a regiment in each county town, or in the most suitable town in the county

No hard and fast line can be put down, as in some of the larger counties there might be several centres, and the smaller or less populated counties might be grouped together.

Each territorial regiment would thus be domiciled in its own district, and would be looked upon by the populace as an integral part of the county organisation. The present system of two battalions per regiment, one at home and one in India or elsewhere, would be maintained.

The expenditure of the Army would thus be equally distributed all over, and with the local *esprit d'corps* that would be engendered, there would not be the slightest difficulty in finding recruits.

As I have before remarked, all our troops were massed to be within reach of the Thames and the South Coast, and of course it will be objected that my plan will so scatter the defending forces that they will be useless. That is not so. The weak spot might be anywhere on the whole length of the East Coast, and the railway and motor transport that could be brought into action could concentrate the whole Army from all parts to one district within ten to twenty hours.

THE QUESTION OF EXPENSE.

I shall be told next that the expense of erecting barracks in this fashion would be enormous, and that the country would not stand it. I am neither a builder nor an architect, but I should think that £50,000 per barracks would be more than ample, and presuming that we built 80, say, three years, it would only be about one and a quarter millions per annum—less than the cost of a battleship—and this sum could be more than covered by reimposing the Coal Export Tax of 1s. per ton.

It has also to be borne in mind that this apparently huge expenditure would be laid out to a very great extent on wages, and thousands of the working classes all over the Kingdom would get the benefit.

The working people of Great Britain are dead against anything in the shape of conscription, and it is an undoubted fact that the military authorities are at a loss to see how the Army is to be kept up in future years without it. A part of my plan in working these county barracks would be that they should be open at all times for the reception of any man who perhaps might be out of work, or for pleasure or change was willing to go into garrison for a period of not less than one month. In fact, I would propose to abolish the present Volunteer or Territorial force, and, instead, give all the manhood of the country an opportunity of voluntarily entering the Army for a more or less brief period each year, and, as an inducement to do so, I would further suggest that any man who had for 20 years put in 21 days per annum on military duty, should, when his time came, have an additional one shilling per week when he got his Old Age Pension.

HOW THE WORKERS WOULD BENEFIT.

The opening of the barracks at all times to men out of work would be an immense benefit to the working classes who are at times hard hit by depression or slackness in trade. It might even be possible to make some little allowance to wives and children in such cases, as the country would benefit in the long run by having an increased number of men able and willing to handle a gun.

The morale of the Army would be improved by each regiment being domiciled in its own county, and there would be a better chance of long-service men, especially if marriage leave was a little more freely granted to men who had put in their time with the battalion serving in India or elsewhere abroad.

We should also attract into the Army a better class of officer, as the county spirit would tempt the younger men of the well-to-do business class to take a part, never before open to them, in military affairs.

Of course, my plan would be equally applicable to Ireland as to the rest of Great Britain, as the troops there are massed also principally in the Curragh.

The distribution of them over the counties would be a great boon to Ireland.

I have said nothing as to the distribution of Cavalry and Artillery Regiments, as they must needs be located where they can be most conveniently utilised, and with as little transport as possible. At present, they are mostly massed in the south.

In concluding I may add that at each barracks all the motor-cars and chauffeurs in the district would be registered and considered as the transport corps of the regiment.

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THE BATTUE.

A DREAM THAT MAY YET COME TRUE.

By CROHAM HURST.

A drastic suggestion for clearing the big towns of their wastrels and derelicts and thus gradually solving the problem of the "unfit."

It was an unusually cold evening in December. Work was over for the day, and, book in hand, I watched the flames circle in the grate, thinking how good it was to have nothing to do but to read and smoke comfortably until bedtime.

There was a tap at the door, and a trim maid laid a piece of pasteboard at my elbow. I glanced at the name enquiringly, and then nodded to the girl.

"Show Inspector Carson up, Milly," I said.

"Good evening, Mr. Merrick, I hoped you would be at home," exclaimed my old friend, a second later, as he stood smiling by the fireplace. "Fact is, I've some good 'copy' for you to-night if you care to turn out and rake it in. What do you say?"

Now I know Inspector Carson well; and when he says that there is good "copy" about he generally means what he says.

"Very well, Inspector," I murmured with a sigh, as I groped for my boots. "Where are you going to take me?"

"Wait an I see, my boy," he answered with a smile. "I promise you shall not be disappointed with your night's work."

In a few minutes, after I had donned my thickest overcoat, we were trudging towards the station to which the inspector was attached. By the time this was reached it was about ten o'clock; but it was not for another two hours that we were once more upon the march.

Our steps were turned towards the river; or to be more precise, to the particular locality known as the Thames Embankment.

Presently, as we trudged along, I became conscious that we were not the only ones whose footsteps were turned towards the river. Quietly, and without ostentation, uniformed men in twos and threes seemed to be bearing down towards the Embankment upon the same mission as ourselves. Yet when at length we stood in front of the Temple Gardens not a policeman could be seen.

Inspector Carson looked at his watch and nodded.

"In another two or three minutes the battue will commence," he said.

"Battue—what battue?" I enquired.

Even as I spoke the deep tones of Big Ben struck the hour of midnight; and hardly had the last echo died away when a whistle sounded from the left, to be repeated far away in the distance.

Then I understood, and watched all that followed with the keen interest of the pressman.

Suddenly a man darted across the road and sped up a side turning. The inspector smiled grimly. "No good, my beauty, no good!" he muttered.

Then, sometimes close at hand and sometimes far away, arose the sound of shouting and struggling; and ever and anon a rush of feet.

"Let us pass down the Embankment and get your 'copy'," said my friend briskly. "You will thank me for it."

For an hour we toiled backwards and forwards, seeing on every hand an ever increasing army of London's underworld—an underworld of which the well fed and well clothed upper ten of the world's metropolis knows but little.

At last we had seen sufficient. The battue was over. We trudged back to the station. It was just striking half-past one.

* * * * *

Next morning my friend Inspector Carson called upon me once more.

"Have you seen the papers yet, sir?" he enquired cheerfully.

"Of course I have, Inspector," I answered reproachfully. "Haven't I been patting myself on the back over my own special bit of 'copy' in the *Morning Clarion*?"

"Ah, then you'll have all the figures pretty pat," he remarked cheerfully. "However, perhaps you will be glad to be a little more behind the scenes than your broker scribes—so here goes.

"First and foremost, last night's little business had been on the carpet for some time. The Home Office had been watching the Embankment carefully. It was a terrible thing that in a country like this, which boasts of its civilisation, men, women and children should be allowed in the bitterest of winter weather to lie huddled together night after night with no other protection against the cold than the mass of dead leaves that covers the pavement. It was time things were altered, and at last by virtue of a short Act of Parliament we were able to move."

"And the result, all told?" I enquired.

"So far as the Embankment is concerned, close on fifteen hundred men, women and children were marched away."

"H'm! And what is to become of them? Labour colonies?"

"Well, the women and children will be sent to homes, and will be taught trades. The aged will be sorted out and cared for, as will the sick and ailing. There will then remain only the comparatively fit and strong. Of these a fair number will be invited to enter a species of Special Militia, which will be attached to the regular Army. The rest will enter labour colonies and be made to work."

"And what proportion, seeing the source from which you have gained recruits, do you suppose will be fit for the Army?" I enquired thoughtfully.

"Well, in my own way I have worked it out something like this. Of every hundred men taken from the Embankment last night you may roughly make four groups, thus:

Medically unfit	..	..	..	..	20
Aged	..	..	..	..	30
Fit for Army	..	..	..	..	25
Fit for labour colonies	..	..	..	..	25
Total	..	..	..	..	100

"H'm! I'm not sure as to the correctness of your estimate, but, assuming it to be right, how far is the experiment to extend?"

"Bless you—practically all over the country. Last night's battue will be repeated from time to time in every centre where the destitute are known to congregate; and in another year such a thing as a homeless person will be next to impossible."

Enthusiasm is always contagious. In a flash I saw the far-reaching effects of such a crusade.

"Why, man," I exclaimed eagerly, "they have discovered one of the seven roads to Utopia! In ten years' time we shall have eradicated the unfit! The effect of such a workmanlike way of dealing with the destitute will be felt in every fibre of the nation—moral, mental and physical!"

The Inspector sneezed loudly; and when Inspector Carson sneezes the very houses rock. I gave a start of alarm and—awoke.

Alas! It was but a dream after all!

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

THE HEIGHT OF IMPUDENCE.

[A burglar has had the impudence to break into the residence of Mr. John Stirling, Chief Constable of Grimsby, and to get away with some of his valuables.]

I think someone should tell the burglar

That it is improper

To rob a house and steal the Stirling

Silver of a copper.

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HOW FISHERMEN ARE VICTIMISED.

THE RULES OF THE GAME—HOW THE STRINGS ARE PULLED—ARBITRARY CONVICTIONS—BOUNTY PAID WITNESSES—A STARTLING VERDICT.

BY OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

[Our Special Commissioner makes enquiry, on the spot, into the grievances of trawler fishermen, and shows how the present system of prosecution for infringing the three-mile limit is abused.]

The regulations in reference to fishing and fishing vessels are many, weird, and mysterious to the lay mind, but the salient points can be grasped with little difficulty. The law which is most frequently supposed to be broken is the one which forbids trawling within a limit of three miles from land. The ostensible reason for this prohibition is that it preserves the fishing close inshore for those who have small boats which cannot go further afield—quite a fair arrangement as far as it goes. I mention that the law is "supposed" to be broken most frequently, because it is just that point which I intend dealing with, and I think that when I have finished exposing what, to my mind, is nothing less than gross injustice, the public will agree that it is nearly time some amendments were made.

HOW THE STRINGS ARE PULLED.

Fishing is, by its very nature, a precarious method of earning a living, and there is no doubt that the temptations to poach on grounds within the prescribed limit are sometimes very hard to resist, more especially when a boat has been out some days and had bad luck in its catch. The men know that by dropping their trawl close inshore they will probably obtain in one sweep what will recoup them for days of heart-breaking disappointment. Still, the regulations are kept as well as any other man-made law.

There is, however, another aspect of the matter. It frequently happens that a boat is prosecuted for being within the margin when it is really outside it, and in this case the onus of proof, of course, lies with the prosecutors. This is frequently a Government vessel, specially detailed for the work, commanded by a naval officer and manned by a naval crew. As they cannot be everywhere, it naturally follows that the work is often accomplished by other boats laying information of the "poaching," and private organisations have been formed for the purpose of prosecution also. I have before me as I write a notice issued by a "Vigilance Association," which states:—"Local Associations securing the conviction of persons engaged in Illegal Trawling will receive a reward of £5."

It, therefore, sometimes happens that if a boat's crew belonging to a certain port are homeward bound with a poor "catch," and they happen to get their eyes on a rival from another port, fairly close in and evidently well loaded, an information is promptly lodged that the said boat was within the limit allowed, and therefore poaching. In these cases it is simply the word of the crew of one boat against that of another, with the informers playing for the stake—i.e., the desired reward. It is always a matter of difficulty to be exactly certain of a distance, but the crew that gave the information are, once they are committed to the task, going to do some hard swearing to make their case good.

"FIFTY POUNDS FOR TRAWLER CONVICTION."

In addition to the five pounds offered by the Vigilance Association, it is by no means uncommon for the men concerned in giving the information to receive an overriding reward from some interested party, so that it makes them doubly anxious. I have before me an original telegram received from a Justice of the Peace, which contained the following information:—"It is well known in—that—has given fifty pounds for trawler conviction."

This will convey some idea of what chance the so-called offenders stand when the other side has so much to gain. I have interviewed several men who have actually been convicted, visiting several fishing ports for the purpose. One and all tell the same tale, and that is, that when they receive a summons they know, *innocent or guilty*, that they have not much chance of getting off. If a Government boat is the prosecutor it is useless to try, for the Government evidence is accepted. Further, the men protest most vigorously that these cases are tried without a nautical expert on the bench to judge whether the evidence given is right or wrong, and this in itself is an obvious injustice, as in some instances the whole point hinges on a small difference in the bearings given. Even when the evidence given is contradictory, usually judgment is against the defendants. In a case decided recently, three different men gave evidence for the prosecution; they were the men who had given informa-

tion of the offence, and were what are called "line" fishermen, who always have a bitter feeling against trawlers. They stated that they had sailed close to the offender, within thirty yards, in fact—and each swore to the number the "pirate" was carrying—but one testified that the number was on the quarter and another that it was on the bow, while not one of them could see the name of the vessel, although it would be equally as visible at the distance named. The most damning item in their evidence, to my mind, was the fact that not one of them noticed the funnel of the offender. It is a well-known fact that vessels are more easily identified at a distance by the funnel than anything else. Yet each of these men swore that he "did not notice" the funnel, and could not tell whether it was red, white, or black. Each of these witnesses also gave different bearings in verification of the charge.

THE "EXPERT WITNESS."

True, the variation was slight, but enough to make a difference of a mile or two. When an expert witness (a master mariner and teacher of navigation) was asked to counsel to work out on a chart the bearings given, he did so and found that, in addition to being within the three-mile limit, it put the vessel high and dry on the land! The fine imposed in this case was £75 or 40 days' imprisonment, as the Bench found that the vessel was *within the limit*.

There is also a great deal of grumbling about the delay that is caused at these "trials," the captains having to leave their boats and pay their own and crews' expenses to the port of trial—only to be told, in some instances, that the case is postponed for some technical point to be remedied, and they have to go back and return at the time appointed.

A SAD CASE.

Since writing the above article I have received another letter upon the subject, stating that *five years ago* a man charged with trawling inside the three mile limit, was advised that he could go to sea again without waiting for the hearing of the case, as there was no evidence against him, his employers promising that they would see that he was properly defended. However, the masters seem to have forgotten the date of the trial, and although he did appear for the prosecution, the defendant was fined £20 and costs. Upon the poor man's return from sea his employers paid him off, and left him to find for himself a way out of the serious situation. He was so distressed that he attempted suicide, and was an inmate of a hospital for a long time. When discharged he was still so ill that he was unable for twelve months to earn anything for the support of himself and his wife and family. People who should have known, told him not to trouble, as he would hear nothing more of the case, and brighter days would be in store—but now he has been arrested and sent to gaol for two months, his unfortunate dependants being without means of any sort.

AUCTIONEERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES.

ONE-SIDED AGREEMENTS.

Messrs. Giddy and Giddy, the well-known auctioneers and house agents, have had a dispute with a late employé.

This employé entered their service as manager, under an agreement which provided that, in addition to salary, he was entitled to a commission when the fees and profits of the Maidenhead office exceeded £700 per annum. According to the agreement, accounts were to be made up to December 31 of every year, or to the date of the termination of the engagement, "and inasmuch as it is sometimes difficult to clearly define what is and what is not to be included therein, it is expressly agreed and understood that any question that arises shall be left to the decision of the employers absolutely, and their decision shall be final."

Before signing the agreement, the employé wrote saying he was not satisfied with this clause, and Messrs. Giddy and Giddy replied that it was usual, and they hoped both would construe the agreement in the spirit as much as in the letter. Relying on this, the document was signed.

The agreement was duly determined by the employé, and under the commission clause he claimed a balance of £21. Messrs. Giddy and Giddy admitted only 30s., and declined to discuss the matter on the ground that they were the sole judges. After offering to accept £15 or to refer the matter to arbitration—both employé and one of the principals being members of the Auctioneers' Institute—and meeting with a refusal, a summons was issued. On the day prior to the hearing terms were agreed, Messrs. Giddy and Giddy paying £17 10s., plus a portion of the plaintiff's costs.

We do not suggest that Messrs. Giddy and Giddy intended to act unfairly, but at the same time we deprecate clauses which make employers the sole judges of such agreements.

MORE MONEY FOR THE AMBITIOUS.

GREATER EARNING POWER FOR ALL WHO ACT ON ADVICE IN THIS REMARKABLE BOOK.

SPECIAL XMAS OFFER TO READERS OF "JOHN BULL."
The trained human brain is the most prolific money-mint in the world.

Go into the counting house of some big commercial firm. You see that clerk busily writing at his desk! He is working very hard. Yet at the outside his salary is not more than 35s. a week. Why? Simply because his brain has not been trained to make more.

In another room there sits the manager of the department. He is working hard, too—but, so far as actual effort is concerned, no harder than the clerk. But his work is of a finer, higher quality. He has trained his brain to make more money. Consequently, it is minting him 500 golden sovereigns a year.

Inside a door marked **STRICTLY PRIVATE** there sits the Chairman of the Directors. Of actual "slogging" work he does less, perhaps, than anyone in the firm. His duties at the office are accomplished in a couple of hours. After lunch he has to rush off to attend meetings, or to go down to "the House"—for he is a Member of Parliament and a public man. But upon that couple of hours' work hinges the whole great business. His brain has been trained to do that work, to do it swiftly and to do it well. Consequently, the busy Mint of his Mind is creating for him £10,000 a year.

Scientific Mind Training. Not Natural Brilliance, The Surest Passport to Success.

Now mark this!

The chief difference between these three men lies not in the original quality of their mental cortex, but in the training their brains have undergone.

Every soldier in Napoleon's army carried a Marshal's baton in his knapsack. So every soldier in the world's industrial, commercial, financial and professional Armies carries in his brain the sleeping qualities of a Carnegie, a Lipton, a Rothschild, or an Asquith. These qualities in most cases are undeveloped. But they can be developed with proper training. You can greatly develop them in your own case by following out the system described in a book that is now being distributed free to readers of **JOHN BULL** who are ambitious to get on in the world.

"But are not some men and women endowed by Nature with more brilliant brains than others?"

Certainly they are. But as a rule their very brilliance causes them to think that "training" is not required, and consequently they fail to win Success. Everyone knows of brilliant men who fail and of less brilliant men who succeed. Remember this—Training is far more important than Brilliance as a factor of success. The well-trained brain wins through where the brilliant but untrained (and therefore unstable) brain gives in.

Special Christmas Mind-Training. Income-Increasing Offer.

Particulars of this offer will be sent, together with a copy of a remarkable book just published, free to every reader who uses the coupon printed below.

This book tells all about the Pelman system of improving the money-minting power of your mind. Study this system and enable yourself to double (and much more than double in many cases) the earning ability of your brain.

Thus, if your brain earns at present £2 a week, this book tells you of a system of training which enables you to increase your income to £4 a week, starting as early as the New Year.

If it earns £5 a week now the system explained in this book will raise its money-minting value to £10 a week, and so on.

Amongst the many valuable mental qualities this system of training develops are the following:—

1. The power of originating valuable ideas and improvements.
2. The power of getting the most work out of others.
3. The power of doubling your own output without effort.
4. The power of convincing others with your arguments.
5. The power of impressing your personality upon your surroundings.
6. The power of dominating others.
7. The power of organising and directing large and complex affairs.
8. The power of salesmanship.
9. The power of management.
10. The power of quick and accurate thinking.
11. The power of a reliable, never-forgetting memory.
12. This system teaches you to talk well (in business and in society)—to speak fluently to large audiences—to remember facts, faces, appointments, figures, data of every kind—to learn foreign languages in one-third to one-quarter the usual time—to focus your mind on the important points of any proposition—to assimilate valuable knowledge and reject useless information—to act energetically and at the right time—to seize opportunities the moment they open—in short, to "get on," make money and win success.

**£10
TO £50
PER WEEK**

**25/-
PER WEEK**



The income dividing line of your body runs somewhere about the chin. It is a line that divides the income-value of your physical system into two very unequal parts.

The value of a man from his chin downwards is, on an average, about 4s. per day.

But his value from his chin upwards may be anything—from £1 a day, £5 a day, £50 a day—it depends on how he uses his brain.

Write for this Gift Guide Book To-day and Make Your Mind Mint More Money.

Here is the Coupon which entitles you to a copy free of cost. Fill it up and post to-day.

By return of post a copy of this book will reach you and tell you of a method whereby you can Make Your Mind Mint More Money and improve your position in life, at a cost considerably less than the extra amount you may earn in one week after studying the system.

SEND THIS COUPON, OR COPY IT UPON A POSTCARD.

To the Secretary,

The Pelman School of Mind-Training,

15, Wenham House, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.

Please send a copy of your book describing the Winter Evening Course of Mind and Business Training mentioned in the article entitled "More Money for the Ambitious," together with particulars of your special Christmas offer to readers of **JOHN BULL**.

Name

Address

THE MAID AND THE YOUTH.

BY "LANCING."

"Lancing" is a new writer of short stories. His style is unique—there being always a surprise in store for the reader. One of his best stories is "The Dismissal," which will be found in JOHN AND MARY, the combined Xmas Number of this journal and MRS. BULL.]

The woman was over thirty and the boy was just of age. There is a touch of comedy in that.

Comedy lies akin to tragedy.

And she loved him so, as unannounced he came into her room—a room that showed her personality in every piece of furniture, in every picture. He looked so young, so gloriously young, with the glow and vitality of perfect health gleaming in his clean, white youth. A shade of anxiety, though, lay deep in his eyes, and she, woman-like, noticed it. She bent over the flowers that he had brought her. Their fragrance reminded her of his youth and of her age and, again woman-like, she gloried in that which pained her as she pressed the roses against her face. Pulling up a footstool to her chair, he sat himself down at her feet and glanced up at her. Instinctively, the mother that is within all women towards all men they love awoke in her as her hand stretched out to caress his hair.

"Ah, Lulu!" he exclaimed, calling her by the name that he had given her for their private use, "what would the world be for me but for you?"

The eternal selfishness of youth had framed the thought. But the woman did not notice it. She saw only the boyish down on his lip, the squareness of his shoulders, the clean, lithe lines on which he was built, and her heart leapt within her at the thought that he depended on her, however slightly—that she had her place in his scheme of things.

"What is it, boy? Tell me about things—you know," she crooned over him.

The boy pulled out his cigarette case, a dainty thing of silver and platinum that she had given him. Lighting a cigarette, he looked up at her and laughed into her eyes.

"How sweet you are," he said, softly, letting the blue smoke curl idly upwards. Then, boyishly—"You always look so ripping in the mornings."

"You say that to please me," she teased him.

"No, it's true. But look here, Lulu, I can't go on much longer like this."

"What do you mean?" she asked, slowly, pretending to misunderstand him.

Rising, he went behind her chair and, bending over her, whispered passionately at some length.

"Oh, boy—I can't," she replied, well knowing that she both could and would.

Very gently he pleaded with her.

"You cannot refuse me," he urged; "shall I tell you why?"

"Why?" she asked, but she knew.

"Because," the boy replied, taking her hand in his, "because you love me."

His air of mastery delighted her. Instantly she surrendered, but so softly did she speak that he caught only the one, the glorious fact that he could have his way.

"When?" he asked, breathlessly.

"You must give me a little time to think," she insisted, but seeing the look of disappointment that crossed his face, she added, "Perhaps to-night." In his rapture he took her in his arms. "You mustn't, boy," she cried, "someone might come in."

He released her and, as a servant announced a visitor, he rose to go. "To-night—promise," he whispered, as, with an old-world courtesy that always delighted her, he bent over her hand.

"Yes—perhaps," and he was gone.

That night the woman flung off her opera cloak and sat down at her bureau. The lights gleamed on her jewels, on her white throat and arms. Picking up a pen, she wrote hurriedly:—

"My Dear Boy,—As I half promised you, I enclose you a cheque. But I must really warn you that you will get no more until your next quarter's allowance is due.

"In haste,

"Your loving old Aunt."

SPIRITUALISTIC SEANCES.

BY OUR SPIRITUALIST REPORTER.

[We have recently added to our staff a Special Spiritualistic Reporter, who has the ENTREE to the most select SEANCES, and will, from week to week, keep our readers informed of the latest news from the astral plane.]

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

Having sat for ten minutes in complete darkness and unbroken silence, with our minds concentrated on Shakespeare, a sudden violent rapping on the table made us all jump—including the medium.

"Is that William Shakespeare?" I asked.

"I am," replied the voice.

"No doubt you keep yourself informed as to what is going on down here. Can you suggest any remedy for the present impossible political situation, brought about by the abuse of the effete Party system?"

"The first thing we do," he said, "let's kill all the lawyers, in whose cold blood no spark of honour bides."

"Good gracious! the effect of that would be—"

"To make a shambles of the Parliament House. In this weak, piping time of peace the world is grown so bad, that wrens make prey where eagles dared not perch; since every Jack became a gentleman, there's many a gentle person made a Jack; for, notwithstanding the rusty curb of old father antic, the law, liberty plucks justice by the nose."



Shakespeare laughed softly.

"What do you think of Lloyd George?"

"He has the pate of a politician," replied Shakespeare, "one that would circumvent God."

"That's strong language," I protested.

"Then do not put me to't, for I am nothing if not critical," replied the immortal. "He speaks plain cannon—fire and smoke and bounce. I loved the people, but did not like to stage me to their eyes; though it did well, I did not relish well their loud applause and *aves* vehement, nor do I think the man of safe discretion that does affect it. But he that stands upon a slippery place makes nice of no vile hold to stay him up."

"You don't think much of the Insurance Bill, then?"

"Flat burglary as ever was committed," declared Shakespeare, with conviction. "It is not, nor it cannot come to good. Wrest once the law to your authority; to do a great right, do a little wrong; 'twill be recorded as a precedent; and many an error, by the same example, will rush into the state."

"What about the Servant Tax?" I asked.

"It can never be they will digest this harsh indignity," cried Shakespeare. "Base is the slave that pays!"

"But there is a shocking lot of poverty and unemployment just now," I reminded the spirit.

"There's place and means for every man alive."

"There would be, under a Business Government," I observed. "But, changing the subject, what do you think of the Rev. F. B. Meyer?"

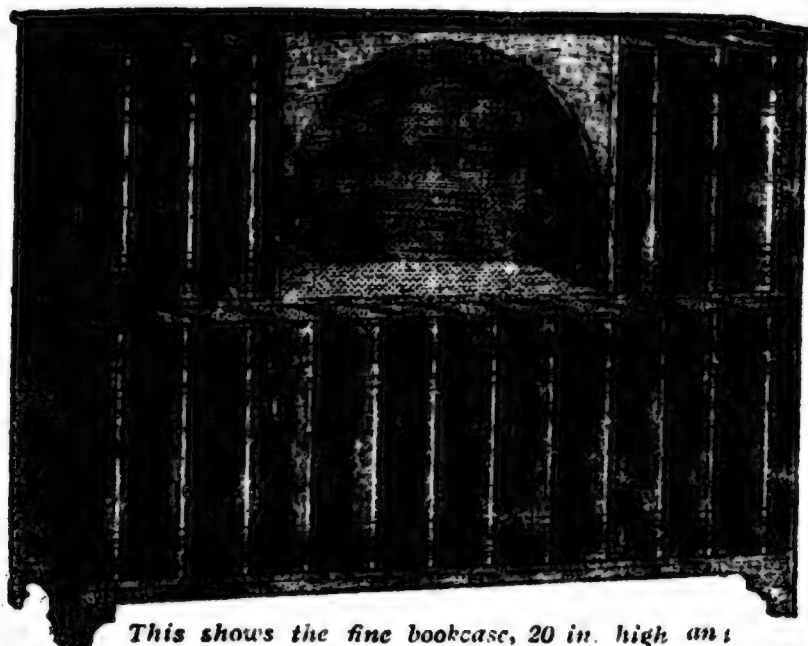
"A spleeny Lutheran," replied Shakespeare, sarcastically, "who thinks, because he is virtuous, there shall be no more cakes and ale. His worst fault is that he is given to prayer; he is something peevish that way; but nobody but has his fault; but let that pass."

"Thanks. You may now return to the astral plane."

"For this relief much thanks," murmured Shakespeare.

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Eighteen Handsome
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We all of us sooner or later desire to become possessors of a complete set of Dickens. No household worthy of the name should be without the works of the great master who has moved more people to laughter and to tears than any other man that ever lived.

The Charles Dickens Library is distinctive enough and sumptuous enough to form a possession of which anyone might be proud, while at the same time it is within the

reach of all who can pay 2s. 6d. down, and a few further monthly payments of 5s.

The Charles Dickens Library is the first issue of Dickens illustrated by one artist throughout and that artist the one best fitted for the task, namely, Mr. Harry Furniss. Mr. Furniss has devoted over a year of his life to the congenial work of enriching the Charles Dickens Library with 500 special plates.

£150 for naming Dickens Characters.

In addition to the magnificent series of drawings by Mr. Furniss a special volume has been devoted to the best efforts of the old illustrators; and another special volume is the Dickens' Companion, which is practically an encyclopædia of Dickens.

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A very handsome bookcase has been constructed to contain this unique edition, and one of these bookcases will be presented FREE to those who order immediately. This offer may only remain open for a few days more, as the stock of bookcases is now very small, and as soon as it is exhausted the offer must necessarily be withdrawn.

Furthermore, in order to com-

memorate the Dickens Centenary Year and promote interest in the works of the great master, the publishers have arranged a simple and highly interesting Dickens "Character - Naming" Competition. This contest involves no difficult or exacting work, but merely the identification of Dickens characters from the drawings by Mr. Harry Furniss. The distribution of prizes will be unusually generous, the first prize being £100.

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Take the first step towards grasping it by writing for a copy of the Dickens Conspectus—which gives some interesting information about the great novelist, and some splendid examples of Harry Furniss's drawings—full particulars of the free bookcase and the rules governing the "Character-Naming" Contest. Use the coupon below and do it to-day—NOW.

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THE PITIABLE PLIGHT OF THE PRELATES.

(Diogenes is our Licensed Crank, and we do not necessarily associate ourselves with any of his views. Taking as his model the most fearless and unconventional of the old philosophers, he will from time to time afford our readers the opportunity of seeing things as he believes his prototype regards them from the Olympian heights.)

By DIOGENES.

The bachelor Bishop of London is in dire straits. He finds he cannot possibly live on £10,000 per year, and plaintively bleats that he is poorer by £2,000 than when he started bishoping. I feel that I must take the poor man to my tub and say:—

"Oh, child of misfortune, come hither,
I'll weep with thee for tear."

His sorrows unman me. Those of Satan plus Marie Corelli's additions were surely infinitesimal compared with those of this well-fed, well-fired, well-housed and well-tailored apostle of the One "Who had not where to lay His head."

BISHOPS KICKED TO DEATH BY WILD CURATES.

I don't know if the poor downtrodden and underpaid bishops are like Cabinet Ministers and other members of the Government, who "pouch" their salaries in advance, but if they don't do this, I, as a fervent worshipper of aprons and gaiters and poverty, hope they will do so, for this is a time of unrest, and there threatens to be a trade union of starving curates who are tiring of waxing fat on £40 a year. Mephitic imagination recoils upon itself at the thought of the dear, poor bishops being kicked to death by wild curates. The curate, worm though he is, is threatening to give the bishops a "good smack." This is the basest ingratitude when one is confronted with the sum total of the bishops' hard work to pile up riches, not on earth, but in Heaven. What agony the predecessors of our present day prelates—of each of whom we might say, "I know thy works and poverty"—must have endured when they departed from this world into which they came naked and unashamed, owning nothing, and left behind them sums like these:

Archbishop Benson (of Canterbury) ...	£35,000
Archbishop Tait (of Canterbury) ...	35,000
Archbishop Magee (of York) ...	21,000
Archbishop Thomsen (of York) ...	44,570
Archbishop Temple (of Canterbury) ...	16,338
Archbishop Gregg (of Armagh) ...	12,113
Bishop Cott (of Truro) ...	82,611
Bishop Walsham Howe ...	72,240
Bishop Tufnell ...	65,805
Bishop Johnson (of Chichester) ...	54,556
Bishop Durnford (of Chichester) ...	37,633
Lord Arthur Harvey, Bishop of Bath and Wells	12,680
Bishop Hughes (of St. Asaph) ...	23,646
Bishop Browne (of Winchester) ...	22,006
Bishop Atlay (of Hereford) ...	22,750
Bishop Goodwyn (of Carlisle) ...	18,977
Bishop Thorold (of Winchester) ...	29,165
Bishop Lightfoot (of Durham) ...	30,581
Bishop Creighton (of London) ...	29,500

I feel sure those saintly bishops would have dearly liked to carry this vile dross away with them, knowing and having preached that "money is the root of all evil." But, alas! angels' wings are not built to carry heavy weights.

THE ARROGANCE OF THE CURATE.

Truly the times are out of joint for bishops. One Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop tells me from Liverpool that at the present moment some thirty of our curacies are vacant. My right rev. friend mournfully says that this is true of other dioceses. That is the worst of over-paying, over-feeding, and pampering curates. Like someone the Bible mentions, they "wax fat and kick," and even the poor Bishop of Liverpool can truly say that, so far as curates go, "he is despised and rejected." This arrogance of curates has perniciously infected even the descendants of the apostles, for the Vicar of Yarmouth has this "horrible tale" of wee to tell of his fisher folk. His parish magazine chronicles the agonising truth that "several anonymous contributions of buttons have been received, and we are still wondering how to use these gifts, as, from obvious reasons, they are unsuited to the needs of the heathen." It is, alas! too true that the foreign heathen have no use for buttons, for, as the poet says:—

"Lo! the poor Indian, whose untutored mind
Sees God in clouds, and hears Him in the wind."

Rude Boreas howls around the brawny disc of his dorsal roundity at a rate that would blow my right rev. friend's apron to smithereens if he of his charity lent it to poor "Lo," and the arrogant curates turn up their noses at buttons because no greaser, butcher or coster would accept them as pay. Hence great weeping, wailing and gnashing

of teeth amongst the bishops, especially Arthur Foley Winnington Ingram, Bishop of London.

THE CHURCH HAS ONE SALVATION.

The time always produces the man, and in these dire straits of poor Arthur F. W. I., Lord Barnard hops along with his plan. It is as simple as A B C—merely the "good old rule, the simple plan, that they should take who have the power." My Lord Barnard proposes to levy a due of at least one halfpenny per week on parishioners for the support of the Church of England. The number of communicants last Easter is given in the Official Year Book of the Church of England as 2,283,044. Assuming the levy is one halfpenny a week, that will produce about £250,000 a year. But the levy of a halfpenny is only the minimum proposed. The actual scheme is that every parishioner should contribute according to his means. If this is accomplished, the immense possibilities of the plan for raising huge sums for the benefit of the Church are at once apparent.

THE PENALTY OF DISOBEDIENCE.

There is, of course, to be no compulsion—there never is in these matters. The "kid's" weekly penny is always willingly dropped into the mission box when the fond parent suggests it and conceals part of the cane. A learned doctor, principal of a London religion factory, has worked out a way of extracting the needful from the pockets of the unwilling. He says:—"No one, of course, while the Church is established, can be deprived of his spiritual privileges for non-payment—that is impossible in the Church of England, and most undesirable. Yet, should any parishioner refuse to pay his dues under the new scheme, he may quite reasonably be deprived of his Church franchise for the election of diocesan officials. The element of compulsion would be obtained, so far as it can be obtained, through the withholding or otherwise of their power to vote. It is most likely that the Church franchise will be confined to those who are communicants, and on them only will the levy be made."

ALL THE FAULT OF STIFFNECKED CURATES.

I can imagine nothing more selfish than the conduct of curates who refuse to do the donkey work of the Church on salaries of £50 to £100 a year, and pretend they cannot afford to keep a wife and family and dress respectably on a sum that is fifty to one hundred, perhaps nigh on one thousand, times more than Saint Peter, Saint John, and the whole of the Apostles received for their services. I wonder they have the effrontery to look in the faces of poor followers of their Master like the Archbishop of Canterbury, who lives in harrowing poverty on £15,000, and his brother of York, who starves on a pittance of £10,000! The sorrows of my right rev. friends of Durham, Winchester and Ely, with their £7,000, £6,500 and £5,500 respectively, fill my pity bag to bursting, and as to the other 33 or more poor sweated "workers in the vineyard," their paltry £5,000, £4,500 or £3,000 bursts it so utterly that I have no pity left for suffragan and assistant bishops, deans, archdeacons, chancellors, canons, registrars, etc., who are compelled to work for miserable wages of £2,000, £700, or £450. These revolting curates are surely the last straw laid on the ass's back, and if public opinion won't punish them, the Church discipline surely will.

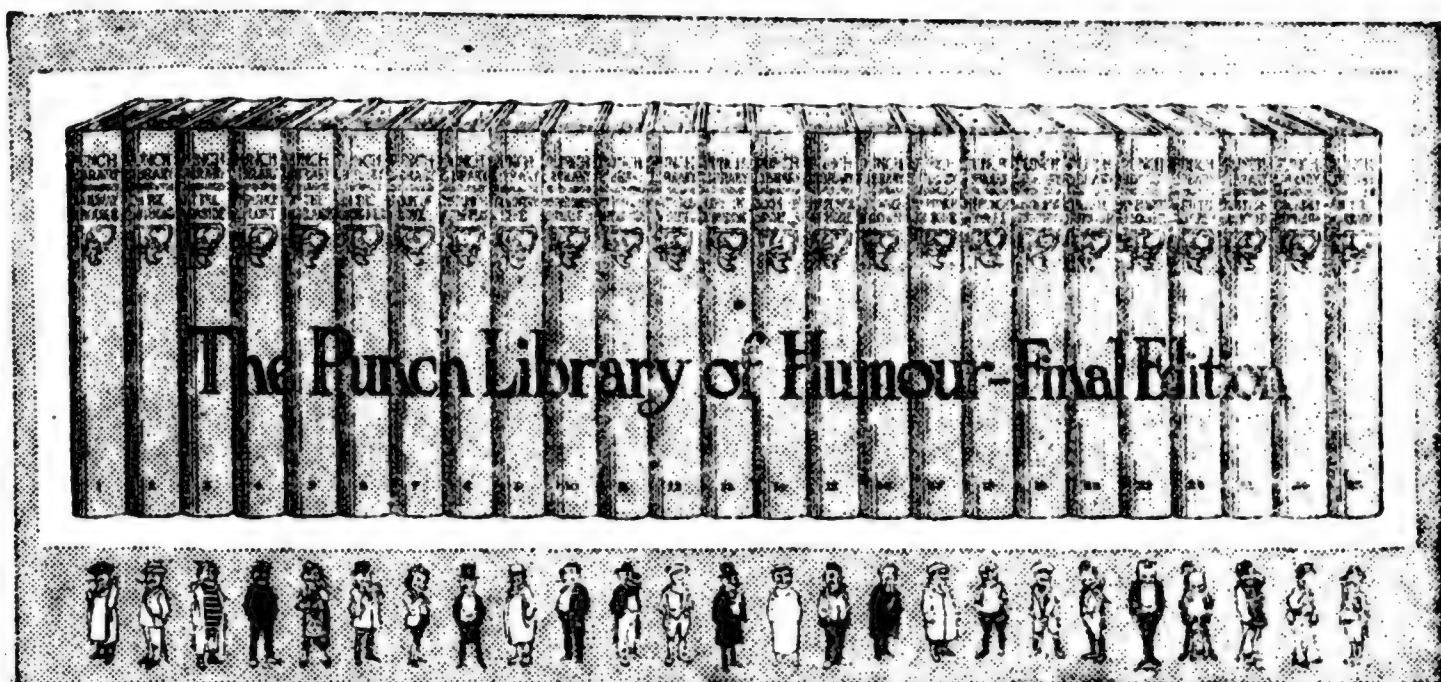
OLYMPIAN OPINION ON THE CHURCH CRISIS.

I would have secured the opinions of all the great bishops who have illumined the Church, but none has yet arrived on Olympus, so I had to fall back on Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Peter. Matthew growled "Hypocrites!" and strode angrily away, whilst the others protested that our bishops and the rest were not followers of our Master, but "scribes," "pharisees," and "money changers," and should be scourged from the temple. As to the refusal of "Church privileges," Captain Boycott declared it "as pretty a bit of boycotting as could be devised," whilst Parnell and Davitt wondered what the Government would do, saying "They clapped hundreds of us into prison for less than Lord Barnard advocates." Davitt remarked that if the bishops clipped off two-thirds of their incomes they would still be grossly overpaid, and they would then be able to pay the curates a living wage. Sir John Vanbrugh put in a plea for the upkeep of their palaces, but I at once vetoed that. Their Master knew nought of palaces, save to despise them as much as I do, as my tub was very comfortable, except when Alexander used to come along and blot out my sunshine.

Moral: It must have been a bishop their Master rebuked when He said, "One thing thou lackest; go thy way, sell whatever thou hast and give to the poor." But the bishop "was sad at that saying, for he had great possessions."

"BRAININE."

The only Cure for "Brain Fag." "Nerves," and "Worry." See advt. page 893.



Let Mr. Punch Enter Your Home This Christmas Next Christmas will be Too Late

EDITION after edition of the Punch Library of Humour has been produced in a remarkably short time, and now that 600,000 volumes have disposed of, the proprietors of *Punch* state that the present edition must be regarded as the final one.

The limited number of sets that remain will probably just be enough for this year's Christmas demand and the question which every lover of humour must now put to himself is this:—"Shall I make sure of getting a copy of the Library by ordering now or shall I postpone it till some other time and run the risk of not getting a copy at all?"

It is hardly necessary to describe the "Punch Library of Humour" at this time of day when everyone knows it so well, but there is one little fact which cannot be emphasised too much, and that is, that whereas the "Punch Library of Humour," which gives the cream of the great original, is obtainable for a comparatively trifling sum (2/6 down and a few more monthly payments of 5/-) the cost of the back files of *Punch* for the same period would be about £25.

Even £25 would not be an out-of-the-way sum to pay for an anthology of English humour from the days of Leech and Keene to those of Burnand and Seaman. But even so, why run the risk of having

to pay that sum when you can get the "Punch Library of Humour" for so little by acting now?

Yes, set now, so that you can have in your own home for the Christmas holiday these inimitable twenty-five volumes with their 4,000 gems of humorous art, and 6,000 stories, poems and jokes by famous wits. If you would like to see the volumes before finally purchasing, that can easily be arranged. You can have the whole twenty-five volumes in your own home on approval for seven days, carriage paid both ways.

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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To Ex-Provost Knox, Airdrie, Land o' Cakes

MY DEAR EX-PROVOST,—From a speech which you have made to the Good Templars, I perceive that, be dear add Airdrie what she will, with all her faults you love her still. Judging by your attitude to her during the courtship, however, I must tell you that I think she exercised a wise discretion in refusing any longer to return your affection; in declaring in the most public manner possible that all is over between you; and, further, in slapping your face to emphasise her decision. For twenty-four years, my dear Knox, you have occupied a position of one sort or another in the affairs of the burgh, being successively Councillor, Bailie, and, for the past six years, Provost. You were also Chief Templar of the Airdrie I.O.G.T.'s, and as Bailie, Provost, and member of the burgh Licensing Court one of your chief delights was in applauding and contemplating the glories of the water-butt and the splendours of the pump. A number of other members of the Council were members of the same lodge. They bowed down to you and worshipped you as the heathen in his blindness bows down to wood and stone; and you and they were able to conduct against licence-holders what you apparently regarded as your heaven-inspired mission of depriving them of their means of livelihood.

I remember, my dear Knox, that at the half-yearly Licensing Court a few months ago Bailie Armour, Bailie Jack, Bailie Lewis, Bailie Henderson, and your charming self sat to consider the renewals of licences. It was a delightfully unanimous company, for, with the exception of Bailie Lewis, all of you were of the same lodge of the I.O.G.T. I believe I am correct in saying that at this session ten unfortunate licence-holders were relieved of their licences (two of them being widows), this notwithstanding that there was no suggestion of a glut of public-houses in Airdrie. On behalf of these magisterial victims of Bad Templary, appeals were lodged, the Appeal Court consisting of the same five Bad Templars who had already taken away the licences, and five other justices. The manœuvre by means of which you were elected Chairman, and you and your Bad Templar associates put in control of this Court of Appeal through your casting vote, is good evidence of the nimbleness of your mind. With the exception of the two widows, the whole of the appeals were rejected by your casting vote; and as no new evidence was called, the fair inference is that you and your associates were desirous of stretching a point of mercy as a concession to public indignation. The whole proceedings were an affront to justice, and, to their honour be it said, four out of the five independent justices left the bench in protest.

Airdrie did not forget these things at the burgh elections, my dear Knox—it would have been a matter of amazement to me if it had; and, without entering into any extraneous matters, I regard it as sufficient that you received your *coug*—and not only you, but Bailie Henderson and Bailie Jack, your fond and familiar bench and lodge associates, as well. It was a clean and wholesome sweep.

A combination of circumstances having precluded my writing to you on these matters at the time, I should not now allude to them except for the fact that I find you at this lodge meeting proclaiming yourself as a martyr in a blessed cause and comparing yourself to the Saviour of the world. The nauseous cant of this speech will not, I think, advance you in popular estimation, nor, unless I mistake the temper and sense of the people of Airdrie, will it win you back to the bench. Of ex-Provost Knox they have surely had enough and to spare.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Winston S. Churchill, P.C., M.P.

DEAR MR. CHURCHILL,—Permit me to add a word of congratulation on the wisdom which prompted you to drop all the objectionable features in the Shops Bill to which I took exception when it was originally introduced, and which warranted me in moving its rejection. You were somewhat indignant at my action at the time, weren't you?

One of these days I expect to see you and other prominent Party leaders quietly espousing the cause of a Business Government.

JOHN BULL.

To Dr. Inge, Dean of St. Paul's, London.

DISMAL DEAN,—Perhaps you are feeling better, as you tell your latest audience, "If the Devil invented partisan labels, and I think he must have done, it was one of the cleverest tricks he ever played." I notice a similar glimmer of light dawning on the mind of the late Bishop of Ripon, the new Canon of Westminster. "They had that curse of modern days, the Party spirit," said Dr. Boyd Carpenter, at Sion College, "a spirit which destroyed the originality and independence of the individual. The nation, the Church, and society lost their best men and noblest characters because the Party spirit drove them out or silenced them." How blessed is it to see the brethren dwell in unison with one another! With the Dean of St. Paul's and the Canon of Westminster denouncing Party to-day, I have hopes of Mr. Asquith and Mr. Bonar Law joining the John Bull League to-morrow.

Strictly between ourselves, my dear doctor, there is a question among the classical authorities whether the Devil was the first Tory, or the first Radical, whilst some say he is the father of Lloyd George. Whatever may be the ultimate consensus of opinion I think with you that it was the Devil who invented partisan labels, peradventure, for the consolidation of his interests in Church and State, playing off the new Obadiahs against the old ones, and the old ones against the new ones, with the utmost indifference as to who is in and who is out as long as he keeps them fighting one against the other for the confusion and obfuscation of things in general, and the distraction of public attention from his particular operations. The time is not far distant when he will be chained up in the world of politics, I hope, for a thousand years; then, and perhaps not until then, shall we get this nation governed in the real sense for the benefit of its people. So don't be down-hearted; as saith the optimist in the abundance of his faith, It is a long worm that hath no turning.

JOHN BULL.

To Captain C. W. Gale, Oxford.

GALLANT CAPTAIN,—Permit me to hope that the verdict of £256 given against you in the London Sheriff's Court will cool your fiery brain; if not, I fear the best advice I can give you is to put it under the pump. Here was a small farmer of Old Botley, near Oxford, who had done you no harm whatever; all he did was to remonstrate with you for riding over his clover and point out to you the damage you were inflicting on him. Your answer—the answer of a man of violent and uncontrollable temper, evidently—was to strike him with the butt end of your riding whip, and then to ride away. The blow was of such a nature that the whip broke, the farmer being rendered unconscious, and disabled for five weeks. You offered neither apology nor compensation, though when a policeman saw you on the matter you condescended to tell him your reason for striking the man was that you "thought he was a labourer and not a farmer"! Apparently, therefore, you think labourers exist in order that "officers and gentlemen" like yourself may crack their skulls; which is an error.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Justice Eve, Royal Courts of Justice.

DEAR JUDGE,—You were very caustic in your references, at the Savage Club dinner, to the tendency of modern legislation and the nature of certain recent appointments, winding up with a suggestion for the formation of a League of Latter Day Prigs. But why didn't you talk like that when you were a Liberal member of Parliament? It is not very long ago, you know! It appears that a Liberal judge, like a Liberal peer, cannot be warranted "sound." Still, thank Heaven we have a humourist on the Chancery side!

JOHN BULL.

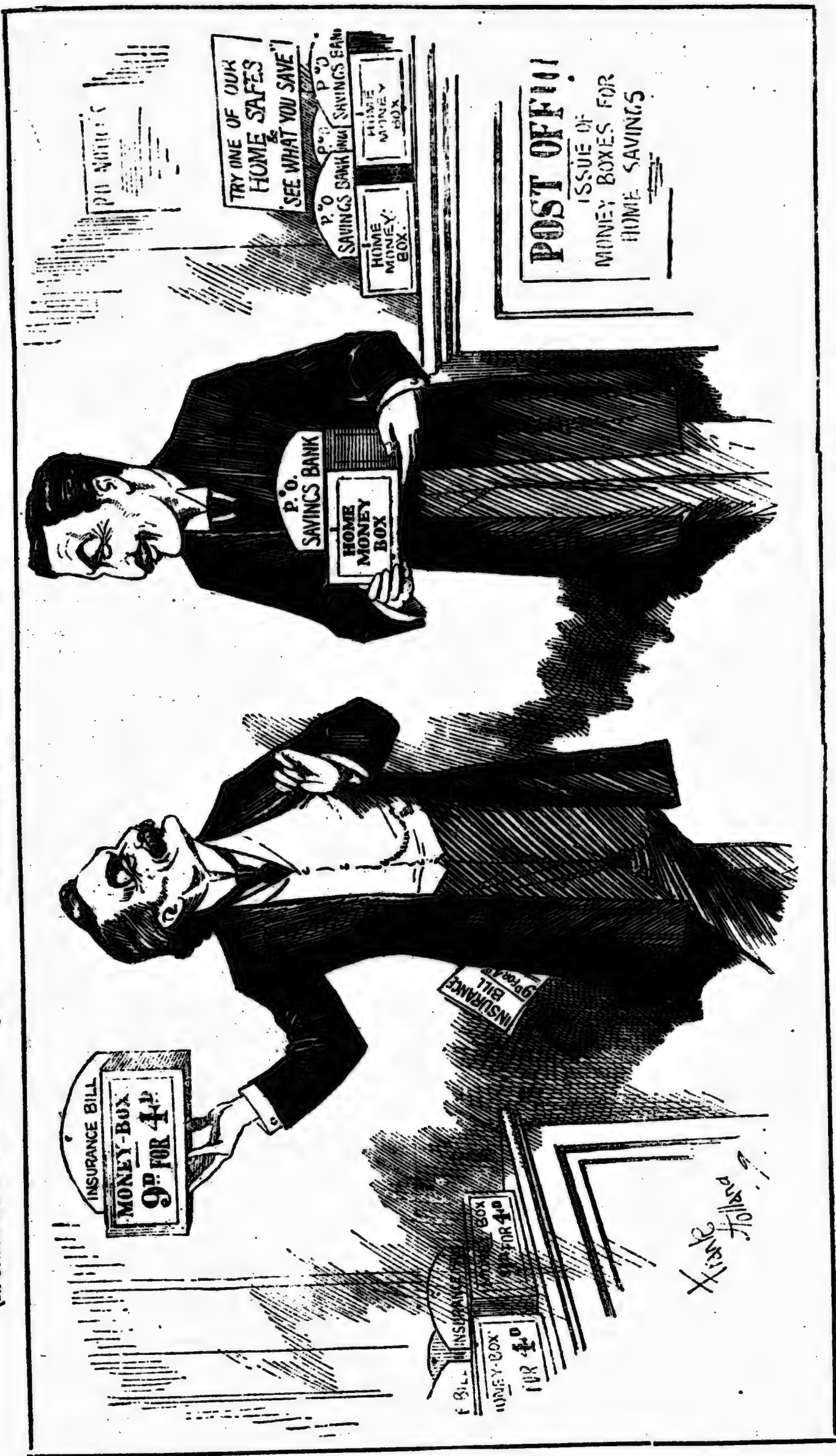
Judge Rentoul, Central Criminal Court, London.

Heartily agree with all you said about slackness Law Society in dealing with notoriously shady solicitors. In fact, it is a mystery how some of them keep on the roll.

BULL.

THE INCOMPARABLE!

(In connection with the P.O. Savings Bank, the Postmaster-General, Mr. Herbert Samuel, is issuing 60,000 money-boxes to stimulate home savings.)



LLOYD GEORGE: "Not a bad idea, Samuel, but it can't compare with this of mine!"

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

BY VERAX.

A SURFEIT OF NEW ISSUES, ESPECIALLY CANADIAN—IMPORTANT SOUTH AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS—IMPROVED ARGENTINE PROSPECTS—THE HOME RAILWAY CONFERENCE.

The long pent up stream of new issues is now breaking all bounds, and, not content with deferring the bulk of these flotations, as is usual, until the new year, promoters are falling over each other to get them out in the closing weeks of the year. There is the *Canadian Northern Ontario* issue of £7,000,000, a new *Brazilian Government* loan of £2,400,000, and numerous other enterprises—too many Canadians, by the way—making up quite a formidable total. In fact, if this goes on, our Canadian cousins will soon wear their welcome out here, and I should think that even the well-secured *Northern Ontario* issue will mostly have to be shouldered by the underwriters. No wonder that gilt-edged securities, and especially *Consols*, have to be sold to make room for these new creations. In fact, *Consols* at 76½ for cash are nearly again at their lowest point; and, of course, the end of year stringency will be accentuated. In other respects the outlook is bright enough, as indicated by an increase of over three millions in the exports for November, and of £687,000 in the imports. The *Railway* conference will probably result in a temporary arrangement between the Companies and the Unions, so that a Christmas strike may be avoided. In that case I look for a further rise in *Home Rails*, *Brighton "A,"* the *Heavies*, *Midland Def.* and *Great Northern Def.* more especially. It may be, of course, that the struggle will be renewed in the spring, but that would find the Companies well prepared, and would probably break up the Unions. A splendid Transvaal gold output for November and an all-important Rhodesian amalgamation are full of promise for the *South African* market. *South American* prospects are excellent, in view of the bumper Argentine wheat harvest. My favourite, *Argentine Rails*, are all on the up grade again, and other *South American* investments are also attractive. As was stated at last Thursday's meeting of the *Catagena (Colombia) Waterworks, Ltd.*, this Company is making progress in all departments, the number of house connections is increasing, several new suburbs are taking the water service, and the sales, last year the highest in the Company's existence, will be very considerably increased when the Panama Canal opens. The directors intend declaring an interim dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, payable at the end of this month, and several of the speakers at the meeting foreshadowed an increase in the dividend eventually to 10 per cent. It is probable, therefore, that these shares will soon improve upon the present very moderate price of ½. *Yankee Rails* are dull and lower, the reduced surplus reserves of the New York Associated Banks causing fears of stringent money. *Rubber* and *Rubber shares* are irregular, and *Oil shares* are subject to renewed fluctuations.

THE KAFFIR CIRCUS—EXCELLENT TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT FOR NOVEMBER—PRICES ADVANCING.

The market for Kaffir shares has been distinctly firmer of late, as considerable inside support has been extended, which is not surprising in view of the very low level at which prices are now standing, in which any possible reductions in dividends should already be discounted. The half-yearly distributions are about to be declared in the present month. The total net profits for the mines for the four months July to October were £3,828,387, and evidently the November profits are fully up to this proportion. Some mines, however, have done better and some worse than last year, and this will be adjusted in the dividends. A matter of some interest is the report that the Central Mining and Investment Corporation is heading an Anglo-French group, which has been provided with funds to the tune of £400,000, in order to take advantage of the present low level of quotations, and the dividend period may, therefore, prove the turning point in the market. In the meantime, *Rand Mines* are quoted 6 29-32, *Consolidated Goldfields* 4½, while *East Rand Props.* have apparently found their value at 3½. *Diamond shares* have been remarkably firm, and the directors' report of the *De Beers*, now published, has been well received, the *Deferred* standing at 19 3-16. *Premier Deferred* have had a fresh rise to 10½, and there has been a good deal of demand for *Diamond Proprietary* shares of 5s. each, which now have improved to 4s. 6d. to 5s. I have already explained that this little company, with properties on the *Vaal River*, is likely to do remarkably well, having already produced considerable quantities of high-class stones. The *Jungle Market* is still

out of sorts. *Gold Coast Amalgamated* do not seem to be able to raise themselves over 1 9-32, nor *Prestea Block "A"* over 1, and this is the pick of the market. *Tin* was remarkably strong, and after touching £204 is still quoted £202. I pointed out last week to my readers who followed my advice to buy *Nigerian Tin shares* when they were low down that they had an excellent opportunity for selling, for instance, *Champion Tin* shares at 1½, which they could have bought at 9-16, and *Lucky Chance* at ½, which they could have bought at ¾. Now profit-taking has intervened, and *Champion Tin* are down to 1½, *Lucky Chance* to ¾, and the decline may go farther, although eventually no doubt higher prices will rule again. *West Australians* are neglected, labour troubles having created an unfavourable impression, and this has more especially hurt *Ida "H."* which are still quoted 6s. to 6s. 6d., and will no doubt improve when the strike is settled. A profit-taking movement is also in progress in *Barrier Mines*, and selling orders are coming in hand from the Colonies, which have put down *Broken Hill Props.* to 47s. and *British Broken Hill* to 57s. 6d. *Copper* is strong, and *Copper Mines* are reported lower from New York, and this has acted as a cold douche, notwithstanding the strong movement which is developing in *Rio Tinto* to catch the "Bears," who are numerous, but this movement comes from the Paris Bourse, where *Tintos* are almost monopolised. They have now arrived again at 71½. *Northern Ontario Exploration* are being dealt in to a considerable extent up to ½, and as I explained some time ago, this is a very low price, considering that their present assets work out to 1½. Sooner or later this must right itself. The total gold output of the Transvaal for November amounted to 719,729 ozs. of gold of a total value of £3,057,213, against 708,641 ozs., value £3,010,130, in October. This is another high record for a 30-day month, the proportionate increase being as much as 35,000 ozs.

RHODESIAN MINES IRREGULAR—INTEREST CENTRES IN THE RHODESIAN EXPLORATION MOVEMENT.

The retirement of Dr. Hans Sauer from the Chairmanship of the *Rhodesia Exploration Company* necessitates fresh arrangements for filling up this important position, and negotiations are now pending. In the meantime, that Company has issued a circular stating that Mr. George Mitchell, for many years general manager in Rhodesia, has been elected to a seat on the Board, and it may be mentioned that Mr. Mitchell is one of the leading Rhodesian mining men, and is supposed to know more about Rhodesian Mines than any other living expert. The circular also states that the Company owns other large interests in fourteen proved mines, and that it has acquired the control of the *Rhodesia Consolidated*, the *Falcon Mines*, the *Rhodesian Mines Trust*, and the *Asp Gold Mines*, and four affiliated companies by the acquisition of shares in these. There had been some talk that Lord Harris, the Chairman of the *Consolidated Goldfields*, would become Chairman of the *Rhodesia Exploration Company*, but a cable enquiry by our enterprising contemporary, the "Financial News," to Lord Harris, now present at the Coronation Durbar at Delhi, elicited the reply that the Chairmanship had not been offered to him, and that he could not accept it if it was offered. It is evident, however, that Lord Harris did not know of the statement which had been issued by the *Goldfields Rhodesian Development Company* that an arrangement is being considered for the amalgamation of the *Rhodesia Exploration Company* with them, and this would place the matter on a different footing. In fact, it was currently reported that the ratio of exchange of shares would be two *Goldfields Exploration* shares for one *Rhodesia Exploration*. In any case, I should think that the *Rhodesia Exploration* would stand very well as it is by itself. Take, for instance, the *Falcon Mines*, of which it has obtained control. The report just issued confirms the estimates given of ore in sight, while the profits are not below £1,276,000 as at June 30th last. It is expected that the first unit of the plant will be running in May next, and the entire installation early in 1913. An item of interest with regard to the *Rhodesia Consolidated*, which is also controlled now by the *Rhodesia Exploration Company*, is that active developments are now being prosecuted in the Ashkirk claims in the Abercorn district. The Bear attack on *Amalgamated Props. of Rhodesia* seems now to have spent itself, and the price is up again at 4s. to 4s. 3d. As it has come down from 7s. 6d., and was at one time quoted 11s., a fresh upward movement is quite on the Board, especially as Sir Abe Bailey has a very large interest in the Company, so that at any time a sharp rise may occur. In *Rhodesian Exploration* shares there is also a very large Bear account, and this must be taken into account, as one of these days it will bring about a Bear squeeze.

THE OUTLOOK FOR RANDFONTEIN CENTRAL.

Amidst the general depression which has made itself felt in the Kaffir Circus, there is one mine which has lately shown an improvement of an encouraging character, sufficiently so as to justify a recovery from the present undoubtedly low price. I refer to the *Randfontein Central*, the directors' report for the nine months ended September 30 showing that, although during that period 1,641,832 tons of ore were mined, development enabled a net amount of 268,386 tons to be added to the ore reserves, the latter standing at nearly 6,700,000 tons, of an estimated value of 28s. per ton. The profit for the nine months was £630,000, and for the whole year, therefore, the profit should reach nearly £900,000. The issued share capital is £4,000,000, while there are £833,000 *Five Per Cent. Debentures*, as well as a loan of £2,000,000 from the *Randfontein Estates* at 6 per cent. Interest will thus absorb not more than £170,000, so that there should be enough over to pay a substantial dividend on the ordinary shares this month, as well as, if the directors see fit, to pay something off the *Randfontein Estates'* loan. The life of the property is estimated at over thirty to forty years, but, even assuming a life of only twenty years, the yield at the present quotation of 35s. on the expected distribution would be nearly 11 per cent. per annum, after allowing for redemption.

OILS FLASH IN THE PAN—SHELL'S UPS-AND-DOWNS—MAIKOP'S GRADUALLY HARDENING.

The oil share market has once again flashed in the pan, and the ups-and-downs have been more particularly marked in the case of *Shell Transports*. These shares rose at one time to 83s. 6d. on purchases by the foreign division, but the effect thereof was only to provide a better market for the sales of operators in the North, with the result that the price is down again to 80s. 3d. *Spies* have lost ground heavily at 27s. 9d., latest weekly returns having been disappointing, while less sanguine views are now current regarding the forthcoming interim dividend announcement. The *Maikop* division is gradually hardening, although this is not expressed to any appreciable extent in quotations. Meantime, the arrangements for boring three test wells on the Field are being pushed forward, and at least one of the existing wells will be utilised for this purpose—viz., the *International Maikop's* bore on plot 108, which is already 2,000 feet down, and can easily be deepened to the required depth of 4,000 feet. The engineer in charge of the operations expresses himself very confident as to the results, so that we shall see what we shall see. The output of the *Maikop Victory* and *Black Sea Oilfields* goes on steadily increasing. *Mexican Eagles* fell at one time to 28s., on reports that the Mexican Government intended to vary the terms of the concession, but, on an official contradiction thereof, the price recovered sharply to 29s. *Lobitors Oilfields* have been a dull spot at 17s., *Ural Caspian* at 17½, and *Oil Trust of Galicia* at 14½—the latter despite a statement that the company's finances have been placed upon a better basis. *British Burmah* slumped at one time to 2s. 6d. on forced realisations, but rallied to 3s. 3d. *Burmahs* are steady at 3½, in view of the maintenance of prices of burning oils and of by-products, especially sulphate of ammonia.

RUBBERS AGAIN IRREGULAR—STATISTICS ENCOURAGING—MORE RUBBER COMPANY DISAPPOINTMENTS.

The rubber share market has again disappointed expectations, and although investors are said to be on the warpath, prices are sagging away again, *Linggis* at 33s. 3d., *Vallambrosa* at 24s. 3d., *Anglo-Malay* at 15s. 3d., etc. *Malaccas*, however, have fully held their own, rising to 11½, the November rubber output being 110,000 lbs., as compared with only 40,000 lbs. last year. Generally, the rubber productions of the Plantation companies for the past month make an excellent showing. Another "Bull" point is the favourable Brazilian statistical position, the arrivals at Para during November having been only 3,550 tons, as compared with 3,850 tons last year. Para rubber has thereupon risen to 4s. 5d. per lb. One of the features has been the strength of *United Serdangs* at 5, on a dividend of 20 per cent. for the past year, as compared with 10 per cent. for the previous year. On the other hand, the *Batu Caves* announces an interim dividend of 25 per cent., against 35 per cent. a year ago. Some further disappointments have transpired in connection more especially with companies floated on top of the boom. The *Ceylon Rubber, Tea and General Produce Company* has not only a debit balance of over £2,900 for the period ended last June, but is actually unable to obtain delivery of the *Matale Estates!* The *Demerara Rubber Company*, after working for fifteen months to July 31, has only been able to squeeze out the modest credit balance of £564, which is by no means a creditable per-

formance upon a capital of £90,000. It now proposes to consolidate itself with the *Coverden Rubber and Produce Company*, but I shall be surprised if the scheme is permitted to pass through without some vigorous criticisms upon the poor results achieved.

A LESSON FOR BUILDING SOCIETIES.

The directors' report of the *Woolwich Equitable Building Society* provides a lesson which the directors of other building societies might well learn. The *Woolwich Equitable* is no mushroom concern, this being the sixty-fourth year of its existence, and the directors' experience has taught them that the principle which they have adopted of selling properties as soon as possible after falling into possession is the best and wisest course to pursue, especially in view of the disastrous effect of recent land legislation. I wonder how many other societies have the courage to pursue such a course? My belief is that most of them hug their properties, notwithstanding the continuance of the great depreciation in the property market, in the hope that some day things will turn. That may be so, but it is weary work waiting, and, on the other hand, the depreciation might continue until it becomes unbearable, and then the crash, à la Birckbeck.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks of subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquiries with it, for transacting business, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

16 A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

BOOTS PREFERRED.—SOMERSETSHIRE.—A fair purchase, but I do not think there is much margin for capital appreciation. Preference shares usually rank before Preferred Ordinary shares.

OROYA COMPANIES.—F. H. L. B.—Present prices are as follows:—(1) 8s.; (2) 15. 6d.; (3) 2s. 6d.; (4) 8s. 6d. I do not care much for the concerns, and should advise a sale on any favourable opportunity.

NEVADA BRITISH MINING.—SHAREHOLDER.—I cannot trace this concern at all, and doubt whether it is now in existence. There is certainly no market for the shares.

3½ PER CENT. INVESTMENT.—T. G.—Put the money into Western Australian 3½ per cent. Inscribed stock, which is quoted at 46½, and is quite safe. The yield, moreover, exceeds your expectations.

LEVER PRESS.—J. R. (Stirling).—There are four issues of *Lever Bros. Press.*, yielding from 4½ to 5½ per cent., according to their class. They are a fair industrial investment, but not gilt-edged. The latter description applies only to the highest class stocks. Amongst the latter are included Colonial bonds, such as that mentioned in reply to "T. G." above.

GAS AND WATER CO., ETC.—D. L. A.—(1) This is rather a doubtful concern, and there is little information available concerning it, while there is no market for its stocks. (2) I prefer leading Maikop shares, such as *Black Seas* or *Maikop Victories*. (3) Buy only the leading dividend-paying rubber shares. (4) No option but to hold.

EAST RAND.—AMALT.—(1) I have been under the impression that the East Rand sensation had become so well known that it was not necessary to publish the whole thing again. It has arisen out of a loss of gold, and this is the subject of the Transvaal Government Inquiry. (2) Yes. (3) The worst is now known, and I do not think that the shares will go much lower. On the contrary, if the management is thoroughly regenerated there should be a smart recovery.

PREMIUM BONDS.—J. H. D.—What you require has been forwarded. You can, of course, sell Nile Valley shares, partly paid, but you must employ a stockbroker.

MERSEY HARBOUR LOANS.—R. C.—This kind of loan is well secured enough, but the question is whether you care to lock your capital up for a period of seven years. There are plenty of other good Four per Cent. investments available which are always realisable, and which have a fair chance of capital appreciation. This applies, for instance, to various Home Railway Preference stocks, Grand Trunk Guaranteed, etc.

IMPERIAL MERCHANTS' SERVICE GUILD.—W. L. (Glasgow).—Your best plan is to ask the secretary direct whether the Society is registered.

COMPANY LAW.—FREE PRESS.—I believe the board are within their rights, but, if the shareholders feel aggrieved, all that they have to do is to make a united demand for such changes in the articles of association as they deem within their rights, and the directors would have no option but to comply therewith. It is a question of getting your shareholders seeing eye to eye with you.

SOUTH DUREHAM.—E. W.—You bought the shares cum dividend, and are, therefore, entitled to the same.

COMPANY QUESTION.—COASTGUARD.—Get into communication with your fellow-shareholders, with a view to united action. If then the position of the concern is found to be hopeless, it would be better to wind it up, and distribute what is left amongst the shareholders.

UNITED REDEMPTION CO.—LIBERATOR.—There is no market for the shares, and therefore I cannot tell you what is the value of the shares. It is certainly time that this Company published some information upon its present position.

OLDS.—M. R. G.—There is no market for the shares in this concern, for which I have no prediction, and which has yet to justify its existence. Therefore, there is no option but to keep the shares for the present.

AFRICAN FARMS.—N. C. B.—A fair holding of the kind, but no dividends have yet been paid, and this is evidently still a question for the dim and distant future.

NATIONAL INSURANCE.—CUMBERBURY.—The National Insurance Bill will, of course, not do the collecting insurance societies any good, but personally I do not think it will last. At the same time you might take the surer way you mention, if they treat you well.

A large number of replies are unavoidably held over.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 33, Long Acre, W.C.

ANGLO-DUTCH INSURANCE AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION.—D. S. (Ramsgate).—The Company is in course of liquidation owing to the decision of the Courts and its operations in insuring lottery transactions were a violation of the law. Why, if that be so, the Board of Trade should have accepted the Company's 25 per cent deposit, and allowed it to transact insurance business for many months only at the end of that time to institute proceedings against it as an illegal organisation, is one of those official mysteries we cannot pretend to fathom. For the rest, the Company is prepared to return 25 per cent. of the amount of the premiums actually paid on the policies to all policy holders who are willing to surrender their policies on these terms. We strongly advise you to accept the offer.

BERNARD ASSURANCE COMPANY.—NORAH (Newcastle).—We should accept the 25 per cent. surrender value, but refuse to take out a new policy. J. E. B.—The transaction is illegal. B. S. (Exeter).—The policy is invalid unless you insure to cover funeral expenses. W. H. (Dorchester).—If the facts are as you state them and you could prove them, as you say you can, you can compel the Company to revive your policies. H. M. (Eltham).—The policy is illegal, but probably the Company would pay at death. N. H. (Holtbeck).—Ditto. G. P. (Manchester).—If the policy was taken out to cover funeral expenses it is valid. If not, not.

SCOTTISH LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—CALEY (Wishall).—We fear you have no claim.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—T. H. (Middlesbrough).—You have done the best that it was possible to do in the circumstances.

SALVATION ARMY ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—W. S. (Newport).—We do not think the Company could dispute the policy. E. G. B. (Kingston-on-Thames).—We have had frequent complaints in times past of the action of agents of this Company in trying to get business by illegal methods. Why not write to the head office? If you do so, let us know the result.

LONDON, EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW ASSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.—S. A. C. (Ramsland).—You would have considerable difficulty in recovering. We return your policy.

BRITISH HOMES ASSURANCE COMPANY.—QUEROO (Poehles).—You need be under no apprehension in the matter to which your letter refers.

PROVINCIAL HOMES ASSURANCE COMPANY.—C. J. M. (Bristol).—We fear you can do nothing. You have delayed application too long. We return your book and policy.

ROYAL CO-OPERATIVE COLLECTING SOCIETY.—N. and L.—We have no reason to suppose that you will not be paid upon the maturity of your policy, which is returned.

PERCEASE OF ANNUITY.—TYPHON (Tarrington).—We do not think you could do better than go to the Scottish Widows. FREEMASON (Croydon).—We should order an English Company.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—DUMES (Kingston-on-Thames).—We are afraid you must accept the statement of the agent with respect to bonus. J. A. S.—The mere statement of the agent would not be binding upon the Company. We will look further into the matter. O. P. L. (South Hackney).—The probability is that the money would be paid, but there is no legal liability. E. G. A. (Howard).—The answer to both your questions is in the negative. We return your policies.

SELECTION OF OFFICE.—DING DONG BELL (Biddlington).—We should prefer another selection to the one you name.

COLONIAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY (OF AUSTRALIA).—DISSATISFIED (Llandudno).—The correspondence does not quite bear out your reference to it. The promise to revive made by the manager was, of course, conditional upon confirmation of the board, but it is to be regretted that his letter of the 5th July was so worded as to lead you to believe that the policy would be reinstated upon the old terms. You must remember that when once a policy lapses, or rather when it has lapsed so long as yours has done, you are very much at the mercy of the Company.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ASSURANCE CORPORATION.—T. W. (Paisley).—We are not sure that you have much to complain about, although it would be more in order if the Company had taken exception to the description of goods insured when they first found out that tobacco and cigarettes were included. The claim made was for a very small sum, and probably this led to the irregularity being overlooked. The Company were, of course, entitled to raise the rate, but we are not quite sure that they were justified in requiring retrospective payments.

INDUSTRIAL INDEMNITY CORPORATION.—COLLIER (Pontypridd).—The answer is in the negative.

GRESHAM LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—"JOHN BULL" READER (Newport).—The answer is in the affirmative.

MUTUAL LIFE AND CITIZEN'S ASSURANCE COMPANY (OF AUSTRALIA).—GENUINE (Prestwich).—Yes, certainly.

PROFITS AND INCOME ASSURANCE COMPANY.—T. H. O. (Rochdale).—We are in some doubt, but will make enquiry and let you know.

CITY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—A. A. (Holborn Circus).—We should continue the payments. As to the length of time that should elapse between applying for an advance on a property and obtaining it, there is no fixed limit, nor is the Company bound to make the advance until there are available funds for the purpose. E. M. (Leyton).—The answer is in the affirmative.

PEARL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—S. C. (Taunton).—If the policy was taken out to cover funeral expenses it is enforceable, but not otherwise. MARGIE (Newcastle).—The policy is illegal. W. G. D. (Hull).—We cannot undertake to see the Postmaster-General on your behalf. That is a matter for you. M. J. F. (Hatherleigh).—If the facts are as you state them, you could recover. A. RINDER (Poole).—We note the action you have had to take in the County Court for the enforcement of your claim. C. C. M. L. (Whitchurch).—The policies are illegal unless they were taken out for funeral expenses. J. M. (Haringay).—The policy is, we think, clearly illegal, but unless you can prove fraud, you cannot recover. The Pearl policies do not require the signature of the assured unless your wife's mother's name is the only one on the policy.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—W. P. B. (Liverpool).—The policy is illegal. It is returned to you under cover. Z. (Wellington).—There is no insurable interest, and in our opinion you could recover. F. R. (Skewen).—It seems to us that the Company is entirely in the right. The person who took out the policy made a mistake of a year as to age, and although you were innocent of the deceit, and took over the policy in good faith, that does not make it a valid one. We think the suggestion of the Company, in the circumstances, is a reasonable one.

STATUS OF COMPANY.—CAMERON (Ilford).—Not in the front rank. CRANBROOK. —We should prefer another selection. A. S. K. (Guernsey).—It is a comparatively young Company, but it has made some progress.

INSURANCE COMPANY.—J. J.—Any of the leading companies, such as the North British and Mercantile, Alliance, Sun Insurance, or Scottish Widows' Fund. Ask for their terms, and then make your selection. W. B. R.—This Canadian concern is, no doubt, all right, but personally, we prefer one of the purely English companies.

ENDOWMENT POLICY.—FARMER (Monkton).—The Company you name is in the front rank, and its terms are as good as any.

It is requested that all letters sent us relating to the validity of policies held in the Prudential be marked on the envelope "Prudential." Owing to the thousands of enquiries which have been received, some little delay in dealing with them is unavoidable, but every endeavour is being made to expedite matters.

IMAGINARY INTERVIEW.

By WALTER MOORE.

In this column our contributor, Mr. Walter Moore, has an imaginary interview with some celebrity of the day.

LORD HALDANE.

When I read that gallant Captain William Henry Urquhart was dead, and in danger of being buried by the parish, I made my way to the War Office to remonstrate with the Secretary of State for War.

Lord Haldane glanced up from a German metaphysical treatise as I entered the room.

"Yes?" he said.

"I see, my lord, that Captain Urquhart is dead. I trust the War Office mean to do the right thing by his brave but broken old body."

"Yes, yes," replied Lord Haldane testily, fidgeting with the leaves of his book. "We are sending a gun carriage."

"That is splendid!" I exclaimed. "That means, I take it, that the heroic old man is to have a military funeral. That will please him—if he knows."

"Nothing of the sort," returned Lord Haldane curtly. "We are sending two pounds towards the funeral expenses."

"Two pounds!" I exclaimed. "Do I hear aright?"

"Two pounds," snapped Lord Haldane, "and don't forget the gun carriage."

"But the most plain and simple funeral will cost five pounds," I argued. "Where is the rest of the money to come from?"

"That's nothing to do with me," retorted the War Minister.

"But my lord, consider," I pleaded. "He was a Captain in the Gordon Highlanders. He fought through the Indian Mutiny."

"I know, I know," replied Lord Haldane, impatiently; "but that was years ago."

"He won six war medals, and was mentioned in despatches," I continued.

"Very likely," said Lord Haldane in a tone of indifference.

"His exertions in India, for which he was warmly praised by his superior officer, shattered his health," I went on. "and he was obliged, in consequence, to sell out of the Army."

"Why bother me with these details?" demanded Lord Haldane, swinging round in his chair.

"Because you appear to have forgotten them," I retorted. "He lost his money through the failure of a bank, and was reduced to selling his war medals."

"I am very busy," remarked Lord Haldane.

"Towards the end he eked out a scanty livelihood by writing for the magazines," I pursued doggedly, "and died penniless at the age of eighty-four."

"I am acquainted with all the particulars," said Lord Haldane, sharply; "if you have nothing more to add, I must ask you to permit me to get on with my work."

"I have something further to add, my lord," I replied firmly. "Let your German metaphysician wait for a bit. Captain Urquhart fought and suffered for his country. He has died in penury, and you propose to contribute two pounds towards his funeral expenses."

"And a gun carriage," interposed Lord Haldane complacently.

"You leave it to the parish, or the generosity of the public, to make up the necessary sum?" I asked.

"Exactly," answered Lord Haldane.

"Then I shall take leave to inform you that your action, as head of the War Department, is despicable," I said hotly.

"And not only is it despicable, but it is, at the same time, dangerous. How can you expect the manhood of this country to join the colours when they read how one of its most gallant old soldiers was neglected in his old age and treated with callous contempt at his death?"

"He sold out of the Army," protested Lord Haldane.

"I am under no obligation to do anything at all. Yet I am sending a gun carriage, and two pounds."

"You are under a very serious obligation to the country to do what is not only just, but generous in such a case," I cried. "You are, for the time being, the repository of the nation's honour. Don't besmirch it by permitting a Mutiny veteran to be buried at the expense of the parish or of public charity. Give him the honourable burial he has gained, and thereby earn for yourself the applause and respect of your fellow countrymen."

Lord Haldane made no reply, but his expression led me to believe that he would relent.

"JOHN AND MARY."

ON SALE EVERYWHERE. PRICE TWOPENCE.

Muratti's Neb-ka^(No.2) CIGARETTES.



A selection committee presided over by Mr. A. E. O. Sperring, Editor of the Cigar and Tobacco World have kindly consented to adjudicate and competitors enter on the distinct understanding that their award and decision is final. Each phrase selected for a prize becomes the sole property of B. Muratti, Sons & Co. Ltd., for their use in any way.

Any number of suggested phrases may be sent by one person, but each must be clearly written on a separate sheet, bearing the sender's name and address, and each suggested phrase must have attached a picture card and packer's ticket to be found in all Neb-ka No. 2 tins and posted to "Neb-ka," Muratti's West End Depot, 28, Piccadilly, London, W.

Picture cards without the packer's ticket are not eligible.

Entries may reach Muratti's at any time before February 15th, 1912, when the competition closes.

The names and addresses of the winners will be published in Muratti's advertisement in the Daily Mail, March 1st, 1912, and will be the only method of notification.

Sold in boxes of
10 20 50 100
6½d. 1/1 2/6 8/-
by all Tobacconists.

Muratti's NEB-KA Cigarettes

are manufactured exclusively of the Finest Selected Turkish Tobacco, which is shipped direct from the Muratti leaf depots in the Turkish growing districts, and guaranteed genuine. Neb-ka are extremely fragrant and aromatic. They are much larger than the average cigarette, and their unequalled quality makes them absolutely the greatest cigarette value in the world.

PHRASE COMPETITION.

For Ladies and Gentlemen.

The proprietors of Neb-ka want a new phrase for their cigarettes—something concise, catchy and descriptive to be used as an advertisement—such as, their well known phrase—"For refined tastes"—and they are willing to pay well for it. Can you supply one?

Just the kind of phrase wanted may strike you in five minutes and be worth 50 guineas to you. Think it over when going to business, or in the train, jot it down and send it in at the first opportunity.

The Prizes to be awarded are:—

1st prize 50 guineas —£52 10 0
10 prizes of £2 2 0 each—£21 0 0
10 prizes of £1 1 0 each—£10 10 0
and 50 consolation prizes of a 100 box of Neb-Ka cigarettes each.

MONEY NEVER COMMANDED SUCH VALUE

SOMERVILLE'S Scotch Whisky

the finest that
Scotland can
produce.

AS SUPPLIED TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS, HOUSE OF COMMONS, THE TREASURY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

Direct from Scotland at Wholesale Prices.

These Whiskies are the very finest that Scotland produces. Whisky to be good must be old. Why accept vague or indefinite statements as to age? Packing Free. Special Terms for large orders

The Guaranteed Age is given with every bottle.

GUARANTEED AGES.

4 Years Old
6 Years Old
10 Years Old

POST FREE
3 BOTTLES

9/6
11/-
12/6

Carriage paid to your railway station.
6 BOTTLES.

18/6
21 6
24/6

12 BOTTLES

36/-
42 -
48/-

Sample Half Bottle

of above can be had
POST FREE
1/9, 2/- and
2/3

Fill up this order Form and post to us with your remittance TO-DAY, or cut it out and preserve it for future use.

YOU RUN NO RISK—

OUR GUARANTEE KEEPS YOU SAFE.

Established 1826.

ORDER FORM
and
GUARANTEE:

To Messrs. John Somerville & Co., Ltd.,
Craigmill, Edinburgh.

I enclose remittance value..... for which please send me..... of your Specially Selected Fully Guaranteed Years old Scotch Whisky on condition that if it is not the finest Whisky I have ever tasted at the price I shall be entitled to have my money refunded.

J.B. 16/12/11.

NAME

ADDRESS



SPURIOUS SYMPOSIUMS.

SUPPOSITITIOUS REPLIES OF PROMINENT PEOPLE.

THE VOLUNTEER POLICE FORCE.

The question of a Volunteer Police Force having recently come before the House of Commons, we lost no time in addressing the following enquiry to a number of well-known personages:—

[Do you or do you not agree with the formation of a Volunteer Police Force? Please give reasons in either case.]

Unfortunately, we can spare space for the following replies only:—

Mr. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD, M.P., writes:

I am in hearty agreement with the scheme of a Volunteer Police Force, although its president be a bloated aristocrat in the person of the Duke of Abercorn. My reason is, because it is distinctly stated in the pamphlet issued by the executive that the force will be available for the protection of trade unionists. This means that in the event of a strike we shall be able to call upon the volunteer police to assist our peaceful pickets in the execution of their humane duty, namely, to lend them a hand in giving gip to the "blacklegs" and other dirty tykes who will work. In my opinion the proposed force will prove a valuable ally of organised labour, and will place us on a better footing when defending ourselves against the military in case the protection of the soldiers is called for by some snivelling, shivering municipality. I shall persuade as many trade unionists to join as I possibly can.

Yours truly,

RAMSAY MACDONALD.

Sir GUY GRANET (Midland Railway Co.) writes:

I am delighted with the idea of a Volunteer Police Force, more especially because, according to the pamphlet issued by the embryo organisation, it is founded on "the right of the public to combine for the purpose of self-protection," which means, I take it, that in the event of a railway strike it will be in the power of the railway directors to utilise the volunteer force for the protection of the travelling public and of the faithful railway servants who may refuse to "come out" at the command of their union. Such being the case, the proposal has my blessing.

Yours truly,

GUY GRANET.

LORD ROTHSCHILD says:

The idea of a Volunteer Police Force strikes me as being an excellent one, for I gather from a rapid perusal of the small handbook issued by the Duke of Abercorn's Committee that the force would be available for the protection of capital. This would be capital, indeed!

Yours faithfully,

ROTHSCHILD.

Miss CHRISTABEL PANKHURST writes with enthusiasm:

I am overjoyed at the prospect of a Volunteer Police Force. Writing on behalf of the militant section of female suffragists, I may say that we are rather tired of attacking the dear old stolid, commonplace "bobbies" in blue. They are altogether too phlegmatic, and have a kind of bovine courage upon which we can make no impression. Now, I take it that a volunteer force would be composed of very different material—weedy youths of the early Territorial type. With these we could have great fun, for they would be certain to be painfully nervous. If such a force is to be instituted—well, all I can say is, let it be soon!

Yours exultantly,

CHRISSY PANKHURST.

The Rev. Dr. INGE ("The Gloomy Dean") is as depressing as ever:

I regard the suggestion of a Volunteer Police Force with the utmost abhorrence. Is the sense of law and order in England reduced to so low an ebb that it is necessary to call for volunteers to keep the peace, to lead the forlorn hope, as it were? That the idea should receive a moment's consideration is clear proof that we, as a nation, are in a very bad way. Is it not enough that we are practically ruled in these times by that greasy instrument of party politics known as the Nonconformist conscience?

Yours dejectedly,

WILLIAM INGE.

A BALLADE OF RUNCYMANNE.

The President of the Board
Of Agriculture snored,
For puzzling over sheep
Had sent him fast asleep.
The only sort of sheep he knew
Was mutton, in an Irish stew;
Or as a saddle, rich and brown,
With currant jelly to help it down;
Or as a leg, with saucy capers;
Or cutlets, trimmed with frilly papers;
In other words, he understood
Sheep only in the form of food.

But as for foot and mouth disease,
He was quite ignorant of these;
Of sheep-tick, too, he had no knowledge—
They had not taught him that at college.

Bred to the shipping industry,
His knowledge of that trade was deep;
But though he owned some ships at sea,
He was at sea regarding sheep.
And that is why the President
His head upon the table leant,
And, softly snoring, slept in peace,
Dreaming of fleets instead of fleece.

"Awake!" his secretary said,
"A deputation now awaits!
Arise, arouse your sleepy head,
For angry farmers scratch their pates;
They say Lord Carrington was wont
To meet them yearly for a chat,
And, furthermore, that if you don't,
They'll know the reason why—that's flat!"

The President of the Board
Of Ag. no longer snored,
But, starting to his feet,
He beat a quick retreat;
"Give 'em," he said, as off he went,
"The compliments of the President;
And tell 'em I am so busy that
I haven't time for the usual chat,
But when the bloom is on the rye
To visit them on their farms I'll try.
By then," he said to his sec., "you see
Some other Minister I may be,
And thus escape the need, perchance,
Of showing my farming ignorance."

The secretary smiled, and spat,
And said, "You'll be clever if you do that!"
"RET-LAW!"

TRADE NOTES.

We direct the attention of our readers to the announcement on another page of the Adori Manufacturing Company's offer of £3,000 worth of furs to purchasers of a sample box of their soap. The contest is certainly simple, and every competitor stands a chance.

As will be seen on another page, an exclusive Christmas offer is made to our readers by the Pelman School of Memory. As they may be aware, some time ago we investigated the claims of this institute, and were satisfied that they are well founded and that its method is no mere mnemonic mongering—which, carried to any length, defeats its own aims.

IS YOUR HEART BAD?



Feel your pulse. Is it regular? Do you ever have Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Skipping a Beat, Cold Hands or Feet, Dropsy, Pains under the Left Shoulder Blade, Trouble in Lying on Left Side, Dizzy Spells, Drowsiness after Eating, Violent Starts in Your Sleep, Fullness in the Throat, Neuralgia Around the Heart?

If you have any of these symptoms, is it not time to correct them?

Our Oxien has proved an almost infallible cure of Heart Disease and its many complications. Let us send you a free package, that you may, without cost, try its effects upon your trouble.

We will send you the week's trial treatment, relying on you telling your friends if it does you good. Full particulars of use and of some of the cures with every package. It costs you nothing to try.—THE GIANT OXIE CO., LTD.

(Dept. 222 FF), 8, Bouverie Street,

FREE BOX OXIE.

Buy Something for your Home this Christmastide.

With the Need to Outlay only 10 per cent. of the Cost, You Make Yourself a Useful, Lasting, and Valuable Present by the Purchase of New Furniture for the Home.

WEST END HOUSE OF FURNISHERS' REMARKABLE PLAN FOR FURNISHING OUT OF INCOME AT PRACTICALLY CASH PRICES.

With the initial outlay of £1, £2 or £3 it is possible to purchase for the home some valuable addition—a luxurious divan armchair, a dining-room suite, a handsome sideboard, or a bedroom suite—to the home, and thus in effect make yourself a valuable Christmas present of real lasting value.

At what more opportune time could thoughts of furniture and furnishing present themselves? Not merely is this the centre of the great home season of the year, but it heralds the beginning of a new year, when we surely hope to make another start under the most favourable circumstances.

Have your home well-furnished—there is no need for heavy immediate outlay now—and you have, indeed, started well.

Look around, and you will only too readily observe that there is some old-fashioned, broken or damaged article that should be replaced. Yes, of course, the matter has been delayed simply because the question of expense was a serious one.

Thrash the matter out now at this moment.

Unique advantages now available.

Let us suppose you are thinking of a new dining-room suite. To estimate the cost of a really serviceable yet artistic suite, two armchairs and four ordinary chairs, at a cost with a new table, say, of £10. Well, you certainly did not want that expense now. If we tell you that you can walk into the finest West-End furnisners' establishment, or even send for their big catalogue, and choose therefrom the suite you desire and by the payment of only £1 arrange to have that suite sent to your address whether in London or the provinces, you, no doubt, will be surprised.

Yet such is the case, and the same privilege is open whether you desire £10 or £100 worth of furniture, for immediate delivery or a future occasion.

Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander, whose palatial premises at 252—256, Tottenham Court Road, are in this shopping season a meeting place for those who are seeking bargains in good high-class furniture, place a very simple yet very attractive plan for furnishing out of income before the public, and place at the disposal of JOHN BULL readers on most equitable terms their immense stock at practically cash prices. There are at all times splendid bargains in furniture to be obtained at the Wolfe and Hollander showrooms without the need to pay for the same in full at the time of ordering.

For Provincial Readers as well as Londoners.

The Wolfe and Hollander system, which enables residents in London or the provinces, no matter how far distant, to obtain best quality furniture, is as follows:—

Firstly, you should either call at the firm's splendid showrooms and inspect for yourself the value of the goods displayed, or send for a copy of the important furniture book, which will be sent you gratis and post paid on application.

To select the articles you require at cash prices, for the convenience of deferring payment over a period you simply add 5 per cent. to give total cost, and make your first payment of 10 per cent., or 2s. 6d. the pound.

In figures, supposing you chose £100 worth of furniture, your total cost is £105, first payment £10 10s.; £50 total, cost £52 10s., first payment £5 5s.; £20 total, cost £21, first payment £2 2s.; £10 worth, total cost £11, first payment £1 1s.

That is the whole of the new plan which enables you to have in your home at once the very finest furniture that can be produced without need for heavy immediate payment.

It is very important to note that under the Wolfe and Hollander plan you choose your furniture (by a visit or from the book) at cash prices. Cash prices are the basis of your purchase which, after all, is far superior to selecting at prices that have been increased in order to give you extra convenience, and thus represent no true value of the goods you secure.

A Valuable Book Obtainable Free.

If you are a reasonable person you always choose the goods you buy at cash prices. Wolfe and Hollander offer you the same opportunity when you desire furniture.

Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander, Ltd., have unique facilities for supplying every possible demand in furniture, and supply quickly. Every order, whether for large or quite small quantities—perhaps single articles—receive prompt attention. You may order now and have your furniture in the home before Christmas.

Let us advise you to first send for a copy of the Wolfe and Hollander illustrated book on furnishing. It is sent post free to all applicants, and is really the best guide to those who desire to purchase furniture. Not only does it illustrate and describe actual articles (all of which are priced at very moderate figures), but also suggests new plans for furnishing.

Send for a copy of this book to-day forwarding your name and address to Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander, Ltd., 252—256, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.1. You are cordially invited whenever possible to call and make a tour of inspection. You will not be importuned to purchase. But if you cannot call, write for the book or telephone 1850 Gerrard, or 14299 Central. Telegrams should be addressed "Wolhol, London."

"IT."

AN IMPRESSION OF THE STRAND HOARDING.

BY JOHN BORTH.

[How the latest JOHN BULL poster struck a spectator. It should be seen at once, as it is almost due to start on a provincial tour. It is to be found on the hoarding facing the Strand, at the "island" of vacant ground, at the top of Norfolk Street.]

What has a head like a Superman, a body like a seal, a tail like a fish, a trunk like an elephant, eyes like a squid, a tuft like the breast feathers of a hen partridge, a back like a Votes for Women procession on the march, thumbs like a cobbler, hands like a curate at prayer, flappers twain of purple and emerald?

What is a terrible and naked animal, making believe to hide its awfulness behind a brass collar and a coy bow of red ribbon?

What sits by night as well as by day upon a kennel from which it has ousted the rightful occupant, daring him to approach, and keeping a jealous eye the while upon a bone picked clean, a bitten apple such as compassed Adam's ruin, and a brown dish and pitcher—relics of the previous tenancy?

What shelters beneath a sedately gaunt standard rose, that mocks the season by putting forth two crimson flowers, and guards them with the stern injunction, "Don't touch me"?

IT has, and is, and does these things: IT, and IT alone.

Going down the Strand from Charing Cross to the Temple, you come upon this monster in your path. There is no way by which IT is to be escaped. There IT is, huge, formidable, appalling, as watchful a spy upon all who pass to and fro upon their lawful occasions as any Wooden Midshipman, sextant to eye, of a former day and generation.

"Why is this animal like JOHN BULL?" The riddle and the answer are both propounded and declared in a fashion that makes them as inevitable as IT itself.

Years ago, when the streets hereabouts were demolished and laid waste by pick and shovel, a desert was created at London's heart. Desert it remains, save where, in this corner or that, along this strip of frontage or the other highly desirable building plot, men of enterprise have done the work of pioneers and staked out afresh the claim of civilisation. But the work has been only slowly done, and other forces have made the most of a rare opportunity.

From between the cracks of ruined cellars and the chinks of house-breakers' debris piled pell-mell, green grass has grown. Prowling cats and an occasional dog have been noted there by zoologists for the past twelvemonth; now IT has come, an animal hitherto unrecorded, as yet unclassified.

Let Sir Harry Johnston have his okapi from Central Africa, Mr. George Graves his gazeka from the Little Michu hinterland, and the Follies that appropriately cod-headed, check-waistcoated abnormality that invaded their merry stage; JOHN BULL and Mr. Lawson Wood share between them the credit of a greater discovery than these. The German artist who gained a sort of immortality by evolving a camel out of his own inner consciousness must now yield the palm to the inventor of this luskly leptorrhine pinniped. America, too, must hide her head; for was it not an incredulous man of Oklahoma who, on first setting eyes, in a travelling menagerie tent, upon the ship of the desert, exclaimed "Gosh! There ain't no sich animal!" There ain't no sich animal as IT: IT is unique in natural history, in design, and in the Strand.

Old gentlemen who pride themselves on their knowledge of London, start and rub their eyes at the unwonted spectacle. Country cousins ask each other "Whatever will they do next?" Distinguished and intelligent foreigners are in despair at not finding the apparition chronicled by Baedeker. Passers-by along the pavement, or on the tops of omnibuses, crane their necks to get a better view. Learned judges and eminent counsel on their way to the Courts; Members of Parliament making for the House; Londoners by the thousand and visitors by the score; all are making the acquaintance of IT and daily improving the first experience.

IT has humour of conception as well as of achievement. IT is that art which can be vaguely defined as the spontaneous expression of genius. IT is a masterpiece of bizarre invention. Good luck to IT!

BOLTON'S BIG BLUNDER.

APATHY IN MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

BY OUR PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER.

[Our Provincial Commissioner pays a flying visit to Bolton and puts a few questions to the Town Hall officials.]

Upon a recent visit north I gave Bolton a call. I did so because I was informed that an enquiry into some recent frauds at the Town Hall had been conducted *in camera*. I determined, by hook or by crook, to get a report of the proceedings and publish them in these columns. My identity, however, soon became known—result, before I left the town the authorities abandoned their policy of secrecy and a full report appeared in the local papers. Surely a compliment to JOHN BULL!

There are, however, several points which still require clearing up—such as:—

Why has there been no disclosure of the contents of the letter recently addressed to the Council by Porter, the clerk, who is undergoing a term of imprisonment? To the ratepayers of Bolton it would afford some interesting reading. After they have seen their favourite "Wanderers" one Saturday, they might hold a mass meeting and pass a resolution demanding that the whole of the letter should be published. I am quite aware that my suggestion will cause a flutter among a particular clique. The Boltonians should also insist upon knowing: (a) What family connections (legitimate and illegitimate) exist between certain employés at the Town Hall? (b) Why the Borough Treasurer did not alter his system of paying wages when he was asked to do so? (c) Why the Borough Surveyor did not notice, during the three years that the irregularities were going on, that he was not getting sufficient work done for the wages paid? (d) Whether he would have noticed it had the business been his own, instead of belonging to a municipality?

These few items should be quite sufficient to go on with. If I see the ratepayers taking any interest in the subject, I will help them in another little matter—the Municipal purchase of private property.

It is really high time the ratepayers paid a little more attention to local administration.

TWO LETTERS.

LITTERA SCRIPTA MANET!

In a recent issue of the *Daily Mail* there appeared a letter from Mr. T. E. Elder, of the Falcon Works, Loughborough, in which he wrote—speaking on behalf of the British Electrical Engineering Company:—"We are finding a difficulty in obtaining the services of young men properly trained in the erection and installation of electrical machinery and carrying out contracts." A correspondent who read this letter thought, not unnaturally, that there might be a chance of getting a job at the Falcon Works, and accordingly wrote, mentioning his qualifications. The reply he received, written by Mr. B. Broadhurst, the General Manager of the Company, informs him that:—

We do not suffer from lack of skilled workmen. . . . At present we can only entertain applications for the premium pupil class, particulars of which we shall be pleased to forward on application. The outlay involved for the three years' course, including living expenses during that period and after allowing for part premium returned as wages, amounts to about £500.

We dare say the British Electrical Engineering Company gives value for the money it receives, but the astonishment of our correspondent at receiving this reply is not surprising.

NOWADAYS, good pictures are so easy to obtain that it is almost a sin to devote wall space to such as do not stimulate mental reflections of things beautiful. The artistic engravings just issued by the Oxo Company for free distribution to users of the company's preparations in exchange for coupons have been specially produced by well-known artists. They are three in number, each an entirely different subject, and all masterpieces of modern art. "A Full Load" is a fine reproduction of a painting by Miss Lucy E. Kemp Welch, R.A.B.; "Eyes to the Blind," by Margaret Collyer, is a pathetic and beautiful picture, showing a magnificent St. Bernard piloting a young boy—his blind master—down a flight of steps; while "An Intruder," by G. Sheridan Knowles, R.L., is a charming study of a child with two kittens and a blackbird. Full particulars can be obtained by any of our readers who apply by postcard to Oxo, Thames House, London, E.C.

WHY BE COLD AT XMAS

£3,000 worth of **MAGNIFICENT FURS** **WILL BE GIVEN AWAY** **£3,000**

within the next few days to introduce for the first time into Great Britain

ADORI

An Eastern Revelation in Toilet Soaps.

In no other country in the world are the women more famous for the delicate and wonderful beauty of their complexions than Japan, and without exception no other country suffers from such severe extremes in its climatic conditions.

Notwithstanding, however, the intense bitter coldness of their winter and the scorching, oppressive heat of their summer, the refined, distinguished charm and the velvety peach-like softness of the women's complexions are famous the whole world over. The reason is not far to seek: the Japanese women do not affect any of the so-called skin foods so prevalent in this country. They are taught from childhood to use a pure soap, and Adori is acknowledged to be the purest of all Japanese toilet soaps. Introduced into this country for the first time Adori will be found to be of such remarkable purity and quality that to use once will mean to use always. Exquisitely and daintily perfumed, it has a mystic and distinctive charm entirely its own.

To effectively introduce Adori into every household, the most expensive and reasonable set of prizes ever offered will be awarded to the senders of the prettiest three Christian names for a girl.

Imagine that you are selecting three Christian names for your own little girl. Which do you think would be the prettiest? Names such as Gertrude, Ivy, Jessie, Kattie, Lillie, Mary, Nellie are all pretty, but you must know many such pretty or prettier names.

Think, therefore, of the three you consider the prettiest, and remember that it may mean a magnificent set of furs for you on Christmas morning. The wonderful set of prizes will be—

1st Prize—MAGNIFICENT SABLE COAT, VALUE 500 GUINEAS.

2nd prize

Massive Sable Set, value 150 Guineas.

3rd prize

Massive Sable Set, value 100 Guineas.

4th prize

Beautiful Sable Set, value 75 Guineas.

5th prize

Beautiful Sable Set, value 50 Guineas.

6th prize

Beautiful Stone Marten Set, value 40 Guineas.



(Actual photograph of First Prize.)

7th prize

Beautiful Ermine Set, value 35 Guineas.

8th prize

Choice White Fox Set, value 30 Guineas.

9th prize

Select Black Fox Set, value 30 Guineas.

100 prizes

Real Coney Seal Coats, each value 10 Guineas.

and

500 prizes

consisting of complete Sets of Bear, Stone Marten, Mink, Squirrel, Musquash, Sable Fitch, etc.

These Furs are guaranteed to be of the very finest possible quality and finish.

A Committee of the prettiest actresses in London will act as judges of the competition, and prizes will be awarded in order of merit as they decide, and whose decision must be accepted as final. Winners' names will be published in this paper, and will be posted direct to every customer on Saturday, the 23rd inst. All the furs have been carefully selected and will be on exhibition at our own premises at King's House, near Tuesday, the 19th inst, before being forwarded to the fortunate winners to be in time for Xmas.

The last day for posting orders with selected names is Monday, the 18th inst.

POST YOUR ORDER NOW. It may mean a welcome Xmas surprise for you.

J.B., 16-12-11.

ORDER FORM.

I enclose Postal Order and stamps for 2s. 3d., for which send me (postage paid) one box of Adori Toilet Soap, containing three sixpenny tablets. I think the three prettiest Christian names for a girl are

1..... 2..... 3.....

Full Name

Address

One selection of three names is allowed for each box of Adori purchased. Any number may be purchased.

Post direct to ADORI COMPANY, KING'S HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C.

LETTERS FROM JANE ANN.

[Being communications from a young person to her friends and relations.]

By MOORE ANKING.

THE DURDLES.

DIDDLESTON.

DEAR MOTHER,—I'm pleased as anything to know you're well, and out and about again, though you don't mention what you're about when you're out, do you, Catherine? But there, I s'pose years don't count much if the heart's young. What?

Only you better mind, mother, you don't go and get another touch of something, 'cause you know what Aunt Margaret's always chirping, how Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do. Never hear of him going on strike for a shorter working day, do you, mother? Wouldn't it make the nights seem long? I don't bleeve people would know what to do with their-selves, though I s'pose the Government would have to step in and see that bishness didn't suffer, and the pleece or somebody would have to take care that everybody got their rights.

I been trying to work my Aunt Margaret for a Christmas present, mother—pair of boots. If you see her, and if you think she's likely to ex-pand her microbe of a heart, you might see that she don't go and buy me clogs or go-loshes or leggings or spatter-dashes, 'cause what I'm after is boots. And I don't want no beeled slippers from the penny bazar, tell her. P'raps if you could work up a joke about me not being over bright, she might buy me a decent pair—dull kid. See what I mean? And if you could go to the shop with her and tell the man to send the bill in later it would be ever so much better than letting her see the fun of the thing all at once.

You try and manidge this for me, old darling, and I'll fix you up a bonnet that'll paralyse the mothers' meeting all next year. What say to a feather you could twist round Regent's Park twice and once across the Serpentine? Well, I been after one like that a few times, ma, only the creecher it belongs to won't stand still long enough for me to get it. If I can only find a brick at the right minuit p'raps I may have better luck, that is if nobody behind me don't get killed at the critical moment.

I bleeve, mother, if I had a lot of money I should be a regular forelunc to the clothes mer-chant, 'cause once I get talking about finery I don't seem to know when to leave off. And speaking of boots, mother, ain't stockings a newsance? What I mean is don't they soon seem to make holes in a person's karrackter. Straight, mother, after I've worn a pair about three times I feel like an adver-tisement for extract of feet.

Cook said to me the other day, Jane, she said, You got two holes in the heels of your stockings big enough to wheel the pram through. So I said, Well, cook, what about 'em? Oh, said she, I wouldn't never wear them like that, I should darn 'em. Darn 'em, says I, That don't seem strong enough. I been saying things you could burn the dinner with. Then she laughed and said I better get you a pair of mine. She could only find one and when she held it up it looked more like a shawl than a stocking. Of course I thanked her plessantly for what she thought was a kindness, but also I told her that through keeping indoors she was robbing fizzleal development of a fine show—bottom of column, underneath the leading article. I got that giddy feeling again, mother. I expect its with thinking of coming home for Chrissmas.

You know, ma, what makes me go short of things is the way you get treeted in the shops. When I was at home and went to buy anything the shop person used to shout Forward soon's I got through the door. Used to make me think he knew what I was going to ask for.

Here there's only one shop, and when you go in all the family line up behind the counter and get busy telling you about things you don't want. No, miss, got no biskits, got some lovely bacon; or, No, miss, got no hair-nets, got some nice firewood. And once when I went in for a new-laid egg, they asked me to take a seat, and then they went and snatched an egg that was red-hot. I dropped it on the counter and got my money back. What they said to the hen about it I don't know. I didn't stop to listen.

Mind you keep the goose club paid up, mother.

x x Your loving daughter, x x

JANE ANN.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

SEE PAGE iii, OF COVER.



Whatever your age, occupation, or means may be; wherever you may reside—I.C.S. training will increase your earning power.

"I thank you for having secured for me a position with the Hull Corporation, with an increase of 33% in wages, and prospects of promotion. I owe my present position to the fact that I was an I.C.S. Student, as there are dozens of names on the books waiting for an opening.—(Signed) O. W. WRIGHT, Hull."

The I.C.S. train you for your work, whilst at your work. All books free, no classes, no restrictions, no extras—every lesson simple, thorough, practical, complete. Send coupon for full details in regard to your own case—free.

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Over 160 other courses.

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Address.....

The vigorous old man, the man who at seventy



can "take a fence" with the youngest, is generally one with a hearty appetite and a good digestion, one who has acquired the habit of taking Mustard regularly at meals. It's a good habit, especially if it's

Colman's

D. S. F. mustard

XMAS GIFTS AT NEXT TO FACTORY PRICES!

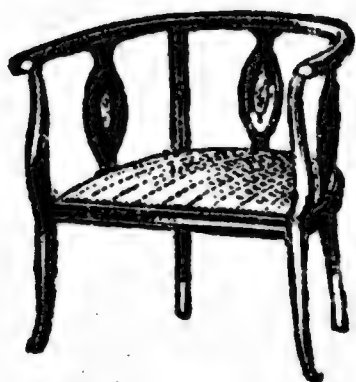
Send a postcard to-day for H. Samuel's Big Free Book of 2,000 Xmas Bargains. The Sterling Silver-Mounted Manicure Set shown is typical of the splendid variety of Gifts of value that last a lifetime described in this wonderful guide to Xmas money-saving. Write H. SAMUEL, 156, Market Street, NEWCASTLE.



BE SURE TO LOOK AT THE
OUTSIDE BACK COVER.

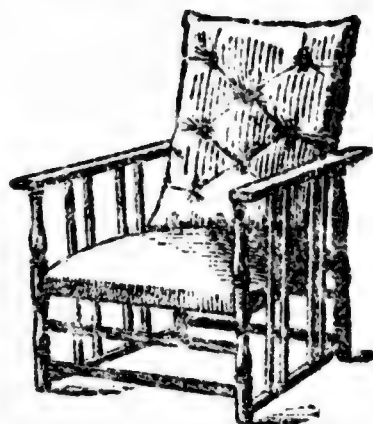
XMAS 1911.

A LASTING REMEMBRANCE



Inlaid tub occasional Chair
covered in any
art tapestry **£1 2 6**

To-day we make a suggestion to readers of "John Bull," whereby the Christmas of 1911 may be remembered with lasting pleasure, through the permanent possession of additional home comforts which were originally added to lend enjoyment to the festive season.



Adjustable Chair, upholstered
in art colour corduroy velvet **19/6**

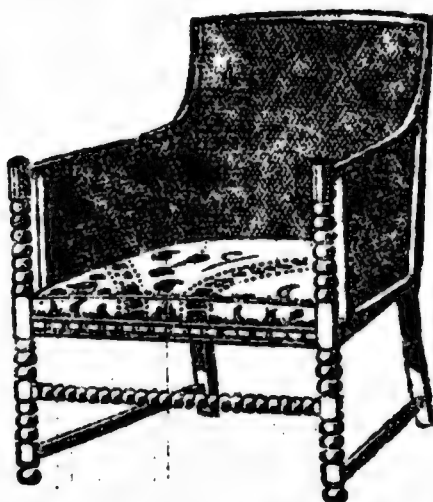
The articles illustrated will afford one an idea of the bargains we are offering, and until December 31st, 1911, we are giving a special discount of 10 per cent. for cash. Should you desire extended credit, we do not ask you for any deposit, neither is any interest nor extra charges added whatsoever.

OUR GENERAL TERMS ARE:

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Or by other proportionate payments to suit purchaser's convenience.

Our new Catalogue entitled "Furniture and Furnishing," containing 400 pages, will be posted to you free upon application.



Bergère Chair constructed of oak with cane back and sides. The seat is upholstered in tapestry **£3 17 6**

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Cutlery, Linen, China, Glass and Kitchen Utensils are supplied by us on our usual terms of credit.

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CHARACTER DELINEATIONS.

BY OUR TAME PHRENOLOGIST.

THE RT. HON. AUGUSTINE BIRRELL.

We have engaged, at enormous expense, an eminent phrenologist—who is, withal, a deep student of current problems—who "feel the bumps" of prominent public men, for the benefit of our readers. How he manages to secure the "sittings" is his own secret.]

Why, bless my soul! It's Mr. Birrell. Here, take a seat. No, don't speak. I know exactly what you have come to me for. You are anxious to know whether your mental equipment will be equal to the strain of conducting the Home Rule Bill through the House of Commons next year. A very wise precaution. You may depend upon my giving your bumps the most careful study.

There were rumours before the last shuffling of the Cabinet, that you were to be relieved of the Irish Secretaryship. Yes, yes, you may smile. But I should not be at all surprised if it happens, after all. There are to be some further Cabinet changes after Christmas, you know. But to business.

The most prominent amongst your *Affective Faculties* is *Wit*. This should serve you well in your relations with the Irish people, and no doubt it would—if you were amongst them more. Unfortunately, however, your witty faculty is largely discounted by the big bump of *Conscientiousness*—Nonconformist conscientiousness, I presume; but whether of the "greasy" sort mentioned recently by the "Gloomy Dean" I cannot say. But I think not.

Your organ of *Wonder* is large, having steadily increased in size through your constantly wondering why on earth you ever became a politician. This faculty also should be helpful to you in your dealings with the Irish,

who are, in their own estimation, a wonderful people, and fond of exciting wondering admiration. That is one of the childlike attributes of their race, taking it as a whole.

Your bump of *Combaticeness* is small—a very serious handicap for a man in your position, mixing as you do, or are supposed to do, with a people who are for ever spoiling for a fight, and everlastingly beseeching somebody to do them the kindness of treading on the tails of their coats.

I am inclined to think, too, that your faculty of *Secretiveness* is rather over-developed. This may account for the fact of your concealing your movements, and hiding your official actions so closely from the eye of the general public. But you will have to come out into the open presently, sir, unless you are superseded at the last moment. I suppose that depends, as most things political seem to nowadays, on the pleasure of Mr. John Redmond.

Another prominent feature of your head is your bump of *Time*. This must, in some subtle way, have impressed the child who approached you in Battersea Park some years ago, and said "Please, sir, can you tell me the right time." Affected in some mysterious fashion, the child was subconsciously confident that not only could you tell her the time, but that it would be the *right* time.

The same faculty may be responsible for your well-known reluctance to give "time" in cases of outrage in Ireland, such as cattle-driving, shooting from behind hedges, and the like.

To sum up, sir, I am sorry to say I cannot give you a very encouraging report.

GOLD MINES, RAILWAYS and PLANTATIONS ABROAD.

For information, terms and successes relative to these appointments, send stamp to Messrs COUTTS, 235, High Holborn, London.

POULTON & NOEL'S XMAS HAMPERS

CONTENTS OF GUINEA HAMPER:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 Glass "Belgravian" | 1 Glass Ox-Tail Soup |
| 1 Rolled Ox Tongue | 1 Glass Chicken, Ham and Tongue Galantine |
| 1 Large Smoked Ox Tongue | 1 Glass Potted Wild Duck |
| 1 Glass Oxford Brawn | 1 Jar Strawberry Jam |
| 1 Glass Pressed Brisket of Beef | 1 Jar Seville Orange Marmalade |
| 1 Glass Potted Salmon and Shrimp | 1 Bottle Greengages |
| 1 Glass Potted Chicken and Ham | 1 Bottle "P. & O." Sauce |
| | 1 2-lb. Basin Christmas Pudding |

CONTENTS OF HALF-GUINEA HAMPER:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Glass "Belgravian" | 1 Glass Salmon and Shrimp |
| 1 Rolled Ox Tongue | 1 Glass Ox-Tail Soup |
| 1 Glass Lunch Tongue | 1 Jar Seville Orange Marmalade |
| 1 Glass Galantine Chicken and Ham | 1 Jar Strawberry Jam |
| 1 Glass Oxford Brawn | 1 Basin Christmas Pudding |

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A gift from me to you!

Nobody can doubt the acceptableness of so sweet a gift as "4711" Eau de Cologne. Its refreshing douracts on weariness and lassitude like magic. Every lady has constant daily uses for "4711" and her dressing table and boudoir are ill-equipped without an unfailing supply.

"4711" is the ONE perfume the manly Man allows himself, and a case of six bottles is a present very sure of welcome.

"4711" is the original sweet water of Cologne. It is made from the original recipe, and is sold by every high-grade Chemist and Perfumer throughout the world.

N.B.—An Original case of "4711," containing 6 bottles carriage paid, 13/6

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Eau de Cologne

SCOTCH WHISKY.

The Wine of the Country. The spirit of these and individuality. To advertise our "Special" we send case of six bottles, carriage paid for 21/- No more than one case so 1 to each customer. W. Shearer Clark, Whisky Blender, Wishaw Scotland.

"No Animal is so Unhealthy as Man"

These are the words of a great living physician, who has spent his life in repairing the ravages of disease.

They are terribly true.

Man, in spite of his superior intelligence which should enable him to avoid the perils which threaten Perfect Health, is the least healthy of living creatures.

The explanation of this is simple. Man, while he has gained in intellect and reason, has lost the primitive instinct which enables the lower creatures to defend themselves.

He has his reason, truly—but, unhappily, he, too often, refuses to be guided by it.

Nineteen-twentieths of the disease in this land is due to folly, ignorance, or carelessness.

Ignorance is the greatest of all enemies to Good Health. Thousands of people to-day endure tortures of ill-health; thousands more lead a wretched half-existence—neither ill enough to be in bed nor well enough to do their work and be happy, simply because *they do not know what is the matter with them*, no matter how highly educated they may be.

Now nearly all disease is due to poisoned blood. Blood-poisons in the tissues of the bowels result in Constipation; in the tissues of the stomach they cause Indigestion; in the muscles, Rheumatism, and so forth.

If you would be well you must get these Blood Poisons out of your system.

This you can do if you will.

You can entirely get rid of these Poisons. You can regain Perfect Health, and so cleanse your body that this positively thrills with the fulness of life pervading it.

WHAT IS HEALTH?

Again, let the famous physician speak and give us his definition:—

"Roughly speaking, when we are easy or at ease, we are in health, and when we are uneasy or dis-easy we are diseased."

In that sense are you diseased. Do you suffer any bodily discomfort?

Do you suffer from Headache, Indigestion, Constipation, Rheumatism or kindred complaint? If so, the cause is simply Poison in your blood, the poison which you must now take some little pains to remove.

It has been proved that the safest, surest and most effective way of getting rid of these Blood Poisons, and so driving Indigestion, Rheumatism, and the other complaints named out of the system is to take a definite course of Holloway's Pills.

These famous Pills are purely vegetable and contain herbal properties of a highly anti-toxic nature. They are, in fact, a certain antidote to the poisons which infect the blood of human beings and cause nearly all diseases.

For many complaints Holloway's Pills and Ointment should be used in conjunction, and every sufferer is strongly advised to do so, but in some cases the Pills may be used alone.

Holloway's Pills and Ointment, with full printed directions for use, are sold by all chemists and medicine vendors at 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d. per box or pot.

Manufactured only by Thomas Holloway, 113, Southwark Street, London, S.E., where advice may be obtained gratis, daily (Saturday excepted), between 12 and 4, or by post.

Indigestion, Liver Troubles, Constipation, Sick Headache, and all complaints of Rheumatic or Gouty origin, are being cured every day by these Remedies.

If you are a sufferer take a dose of Holloway's Pills every night before retiring to rest. Do this for a week, and at the end of that period you will feel yourself a new man or woman.

It is astonishing how the sense of vitality and the joy of living leap up within one as soon as the blood-poisons begin to be drawn out of the system.

Passed by the L.C.C. as an absolutely safe lamp. Sanctioned and approved by all Insurance Co's. The only Lamp allowed to be lighted at Exhibition held in the Agricultural Hall and Olympia.



Burns with a pure white light 50 C.P. at less cost than Paraffin.

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Copy of letter received from THOMAS CORSETT, Esq., of the Priory Cottage, Cowden, Kent.

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NO SMOKE.
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IF OVERTURNED GOES OUT.

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The Lay Lawyer

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EVERY MONDAY. — ONE PENNY.

This unique Journal will make its public appearance early in the New Year.

Its object will be to keep the Public, as far as possible, out of the hands of the Lawyers, by giving sound legal advice upon the various difficulties and doubts which perplex the citizen almost every day of his life, and which, owing to the tendency of modern legislation, are ever increasing in extent.

A little timely knowledge of one's rights—a little timely advice before things have gone too far—will often save the expense and annoyance of a law suit—especially if couched in simple, common-sense language which the ordinary individual can understand—instead of the ponderous jargon of the professional Lawyer.

PUBLISHERS:

ODHAMS LIMITED, Long Acre, London, W.C.

ANTICIPATED EPITAPHS.

By W. M.

Thys
Rough hewn
Monument
Was erected
To ye memorie
Of

John Burns

(Popularlie knowne as "Honest John");
Sometyme
Presidente

Of ye Local Governmente Boarde.

Born,

Anno Domini 1858,

Of poore butte honest parents,
Hee was educated attē Batterica
And attē nyght schooles,

And contynued to learne throughout ye length
Of hys uifullē lyfe.

Hee became

A workynge engincere,

In ye whyche capacitie

Hee travelled in foreigne parts

And acquyred muche wifdom and underftandyngē
Therebye.

Butte itt was notte untill

Ye Trafalgar Square riots and ye great Dock Stryke
Thatte hee came promynentlie

Before ye publick.

Burnynge wyth sympathie

For ye miferies of ye induttrious workynge clafses,
Hee sufered imprifonmente for their sake,

And was led to declare,

In a momente of pafion,

Thatte no manne

Was worthe more than £500 a yeare.

However,

Hee lyved to refute

In hys own perfon

Thys ill-considered statemente,

For,

Anno Domini 1892,

Hee was returned to Parlymente

As Member for Batterica;

And,

Beynge a maiffe of excepcionall attaynmentes

And a powerfull speaker,

Hee was appoynted,

Anno Domini 1905,

Prefydente of ye Local Governmente Boarde

Atte a salarie of £2,000 a yeare,

Raifed,

Anno Domini 1909,

To £5,000.

Butte

Hee was well worth itt,

Doyngē hys worke unobstruivelie and well;

And mayntaynyngē ye same symplicitie

Of lyfe

Thatte hadde characterfyed hym

From ye fyrft.

Duryngē ye controverfie over

Ye Infurance Bill

Hee hadde ye goode fenfe

To remayne silente;

And hee dyed

Lamented bye alle whoo knew hym.

Here lye ye beanes of "Honest John,"

Whofe face was goode to looke upon;

Hys breezie manner hym endeared

To alle, wherever hee appeared,

Except ye work-shie, whom hee knew,

(And well they knew itt) through and through.

Hee didde hys tafke—and notte in vayne;

We shall notte see hys lyke agayne.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

SEE PAGE iii. OF COVER.

ONLY A FEW DAYS
MORE TO JOINTHE WONDERFUL COMPETITION FOR
"JOHN BULL" READERS.SPLENDID PRIZES for all who Compete
CASH AWARDS from £10 to £1.

MOST AMAZING OFFER EVER MADE.

A Pair of Sandow's Spring-Grip Dumb-bells sent Free for Seven Days' Trial
For EVERY READER in GREAT BRITAIN.

There are only a few days more in which to enter the most wonderful competition ever announced, which is open to every "John Bull" Reader to enter WITHOUT ENTRANCE FEE, and in which every boy, youth, man, girl and woman who competes will receive a prize. It is only necessary to fill in and forward the coupon below as directed, when you will receive full particulars and a pair of the famous Spring-Grip Dumb-bells for seven days' free home trial.

If you join now you will have an equal opportunity of sharing the cash prizes. Send to-day, and at once there will be forwarded a pair of Dumb-bells and Two Charts of Exercises, one showing in detail the way to perform each of the original exercises of the Sandow System, the other showing how many times each exercise should be done daily by the average man or youth,



woman or girl, together with hints on how, when, and where to exercise, how to take a cold bath, and other useful information, by following which every reader cannot only improve his or her strength and general physique, but likewise safeguard and improve the health.

These Charts have been carefully prepared by Mr. Sandow for presentation and use with every pair of Dumb-bells.

If, after using these Dumb-bells for Seven Days free, you decide to keep them, send us deposit of 2s. 6d. and promise to pay the remainder of the price at the rate of 2s. 6d. per month, which only means the small sum of ONE PENNY PER DAY.

SIMPLE CONDITIONS OF NEXT REMARKABLE COMPETITION NOW AVAILABLE.

Join now. Not only will you share the prizes, but the few minutes' exercise daily with this apparatus will give you health, strength, and stamina. They will give to woman fuller grace of figure, encouraging beauty of form; to men greater dignity and distinction.

There is nothing to pay to secure the Dumb-bells at once; there is no entrance fee to the competition in which everyone who joins now may receive a prize.

You may join in the competition now with equal advantages with those who joined before, as special allowance is made for this fact.

Don't delay; fill in the form below and send to-day.

Room 37, Sandow Hall, Bury Street, London, W.C.

Date.....1911

Gentlemen,—Please send me by return one pair* of your Gentle-men's Spring-Grip Dumb-bells at 12s. 6d. Suitable for age 18 and upwards. Youths' Spring-Grip Dumb-bells at 10s. 6d. Suitable for age 14 to 18. Ladies' Spring-Grip Dumb-bells at 10s. 6d. Suitable for age 16 and upwards.

This order is given on condition that, after SEVEN DAYS' FREE TRIAL, should I decide not to keep the Dumb-bells, I may return them immediately direct to Sandow Hall, and no charge will be made.

Signed
FREE TRIAL. Address

* Please cross out Sizes not required.

BILLS THAT OUGHT TO BE PASSED.

THE CORRESPONDENCE "REGULATION OF" BILL.

[This is one of a series of suggested measures for dealing with a milled nuisances. They may be heartily supported by members of all parties—and of none.]

**A
BILL
ENTITLED**

An Act to regulate and otherwise control the length, style and subject matter of correspondence exchanged through the medium of the Post Office between persons residing in the United Kingdom.

Be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:—

1.—From and including the First day of January, 1912, any person writing, addressing, and posting a letter of greater length than an ordinary sheet of note paper shall (unless business be the subject of the said letter) be liable to be summoned before the Lunacy Commissioners for the state of his or her (as the case may be) mind to be inquired into; and if, after having been duly warned, the said person shall repeat the offence, the Lunacy Commissioners are hereby empowered to order the offender to be confined in an asylum for idiots, until the authorities are satisfied that the offender's sanity has been completely restored.

2.—Any person who, having filled up one sheet of ordinary note paper with writing, proceeds to attempt to evade the provisions of the First Clause of this Act, by writing across the characters already written and/or inside the flat of the envelope, shall, upon conviction, be pronounced a dangerous lunatic, and shall be confined in any criminal lunatic asylum during His Majesty's pleasure.

3.—Any person writing and posting an anonymous letter upon any subject whatsoever shall, upon the said person's identity being proved, be liable to be sentenced to a term of not more than two years, and not less than six months, imprisonment.

4.—Any person using and sending through the post black-bordered note paper and envelopes, shall be held guilty of committing a nuisance and attempting to eclipse the gaiety of the nation, and upon conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding forty shillings.

5.—Any person who shall post a letter without first affixing the necessary postage stamp or stamps to the said letter shall be liable to be summoned before a magistrate and charged with abusing the machinery of the Post Office, and unless able to offer a satisfactory defence (forgetfulness not counting as such) shall be sentenced to a fine not exceeding forty shillings for the first offence, and to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months in duration for every subsequent offence.

6.—Any person taking an active part in the circulation through the medium of the Post Office of a "snow-ball prayer," shall be held to be insane, and shall be liable to be confined for not less than twelve months in any approved asylum for religious maniacs.

AN INTERESTING LETTER.

ABOUT THE GERMAN MENACE AND HOME RULE.

Here is an interesting letter from one of our readers:—
"A friend of mine was in Fortrose, Ross-shire, some time ago. It is near the Moray Firth. The British fleet was anchored there at the time. Two train loads of provisions had just arrived, supplied by Lipton's, and two more of various essentials. The head men in charge were waiting anxiously to hear from the Admiralty if it was 'war or not.' The ships were ready, cleared for action, and to sail instantaneously. Some said it was 'war in the morning.' All was ready. It, however, passed away. Sir Edward Grey made no mention of these facts, and they are quite true. Many are greatly dissatisfied in these parts with Lloyd George and his Insurance Bill. He is picking the pockets of the gaid Free Churchmen, and if he is not careful he will find a change in the representation. Personally, after doing a lot of work here for the Liberals last time, I am inclined to give the other side a change next time. Home Rule won't wash. The antagonism to Roman Catholicism is as strong as ever; besides, the Roman Catholic priests don't want it. Ask them anywhere in Ireland. 'Home Rule' means that in ten or twenty years they will lose their grip over the people."

L. & N. W. R.
Christmas and New Year Excursions
FROM EUSTON
and other London Stations.

To	Date December	Fares from	s.	d.
IRELAND...	22nd	24	0	
SCOTLAND ...	22nd & 29th	24	9	
Liverpool, Manchester, and Leeds District	22nd & 23rd	16	0	
South Wales ...	22nd & 23rd	17	0	
Blackpool, English Lakes ...	22nd & 23rd	17	0	
North and Central Wales, also Cam brian Line ...	23rd	16	0	
Bolton, Blackburn, C-line, and other Stations on the L. & Y. Line...	23rd	13	0	
North Staffordshire District ...	23rd	11	0	
Birmingham District	23rd 26 h	7	0	

Week-End Tickets will be issued on Fridays and Saturdays, December 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 29th, to a large number of places in Scotland, and to many Holiday Resorts in England and Wales, available for return on the following Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday.

On Friday, 22nd December, a Special Dining Car Express will leave Euston at 4.50 p.m. for Liverpool (due 9.0 p.m.) and Fleetwood (due 10.25 p.m.) at ordinary fares.

For full information and particulars of Local Excursions obtain Pamphlet at any of the Company's Stations or Town Offices, or write to the Enquiry Office, Euston Station, London, N.W.
December, 1911. FRANK REE, General Manager

BAD NOSES

and their correction by
new scientific and successful methods
by F. Koch M.D.



Editor: Charles H. Willi

Dept. A, 475-477 Oxford Street
London W.

100 Illustrations. 50 Pages Text post free from the
Editor on receipt of P.O. 2/- All letters must be
addressed to Dept. A.



THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. CLEMENT SCOTT.

"A MESSAGE FROM MARS."

The "Horace Parker" of Charles Hawtreys is a revelation in the art of acting! In the hands of a genius like Charles, indeed, the part of this sublimely selfish creature is so natural, so real, and so true to life that it becomes one, if not the, most extraordinary impersonations Hawtreys has ever electrified the English stage with. Strangely enough, and although the theatrical trade is apt to follow a "bell wether" like a flock of sheep, there has been no spurious imitation of Richard Ganthony's "Message from Mars." Because why? For the very reason that there is only one Hawtreys to play such a character as Horace Parker—only one actor, and that is Charles, who could treat the part as he does, without a semblance of artificiality about him, but with an earnestness so impressive that the instant after convulsing you with shrieks of laughter, he can draw tears of pathos from eyes that a moment before were sparkling with merriment. When Pinero first set the St. James's audiences agog with his "Second Mrs. Tanqueray" there were any amount of authors who drew ugly pictures of women "who did" and women "who didn't." When Charles Hawtreys, however, created a record maker in Richard Ganthony's play there was nobody foolish enough to commit himself to trying to re-produce another invention like Ganthony's, perfected by the rare modelling of Mr. Hawtreys. Was ever a more complete snow scene shown than the one outside Mrs. Clarence's house, where the white flakes lie piled up a foot high on the stone steps, and Hawtreys, terribly cold and hungry, after being divested of his warm fur coat and well-cut clothes, is shambling about in rags, clearing a footway for the hard-fisted visitors who exit from the brightly lighted hall? No more seasonable moment could have been chosen by the Prince of Wales' management for reviving this ripping comedy of charitableness, equality, and good-will towards mankind, the gentle seeds of which will bear fruit in many a defiant heart. My ears still ring with the pathetic cry of "Halves, partner; halves!" Miss Jessie Bateman, as the devoted fiancée of Horace, resumes the rôle she originally played at the Avenue. Mr. Arthur Grenville succeeds Arthur Williams as "The Tramp," and Mr. Charles E. Vaughan is an excellent "Messenger From Mars," a character taken by the Australian actor, Mr. Titheradge, when the piece was first produced. Miss Kate Tyndall is a newcomer also to the cast, and adds considerably to the charm of Miss Parker, Horace's maiden sister. Where there is anything worth seeing there the public will rush, so you may take it from me that "The Prince of Wales' Theatre" is in for coining pots of gold.

SIR GEORGE LEWIS, Bt.

Referring to the death of Sir George Lewis, G. R. Sims calls to mind the famous "Scott versus Sampson" case, in which the former gentleman was first awarded three thousand pounds damages, but afterwards the sum was altered to fifteen hundred pounds, not a penny piece of which ever found its way into Scott's pocket. An extremely funny incident occurred regarding another libel action which was threatened by Arthur Wing Pinero against Mr. Scott for an article he wrote to the *Illustrated London News* about the similarity of a German play called "Der Schatten" to "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray." Now, on any question of law, Scott had invariably consulted George Lewis, of 10 and 11, Ely Place, Holborn. George Lewis had, in fact, been his legal adviser ever since they had been known to one another, and they were always on the very friendliest of terms, meeting at dinners, suppers, and receptions of all kinds. Judge of his surprise then, when holiday making, to receive a note from George Lewis' firm which stated that "our client has consulted us about a certain paragraph, etc., etc. We shall be glad if you will let us know at your earliest convenience the names of your solicitors." Scott immediately replied, "Dear Sirs, The names of my solicitors are Messrs. Lewis and Lewis, of 10 and 11, Ely Place," and addressed the note accordingly. George Lewis, quick to grasp the fun of the situation, made appointments for Pinero and Scott to call on him at the same hour. They all three met, burst out laughing, and, needless to say, that libel action never came into court. A peculiar mixture of kindness and cruelty, George Lewis, if once thwarted, would stick at nothing to attain his purpose. More often than not, his aims were just, but there have been times when he has erred, and the "eye for an eye" attributed to "race" has made itself painfully apparent.

Good Tobacco in a Bad Pipe.

Do you know how good that tobacco you smoke really is? You do not if you smoke an ordinary pipe. Put it in a Bewlay Patent Pipe and see how much better it is than you have ever thought. Just a simple ivory or seal section below makes all the difference. It stops all nicotine or dust reaching the mouth, stops moisture reaching the tobacco from the mouth, and enables both wet and dry smokers to enjoy a cool sweet smoke. And every

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is a splendid specimen of pipe-making—well-selected briar of fine grain, highly finished throughout, guarantee not to split or burn with fair use.

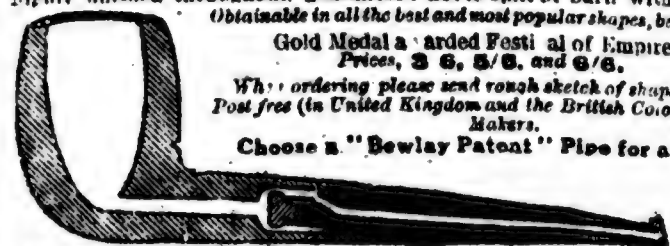
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Further particulars are given in our interesting Booklet, "Pipes of all Peoples," sent gratis and post free—BEWLAY & Co., Ltd., 49 Strand, W.C.

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CLEMAK Safety Razor 5/-

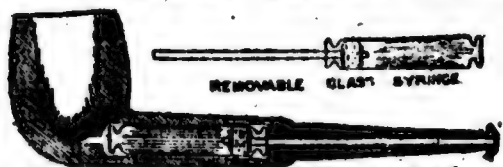
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The only brace that ensures absolute ease and comfort, and perfect freedom of movement. Every genuine pair has a manufacturer's signed guarantee—"Satisfaction New Pair or Money Back," and on the Buckle "Shirley President."

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If any difficulty in obtaining from your outfitter, write, A. MERCHANT & CO.,
7, Fore Street London, E.C., who supply the wholesale.

Riley's Billiard Tables.



Roberts and Cray both made their record breaks on Riley's Standard Tables.

Give yourself and your whole family a present that all can enjoy, a Riley's Miniature Billiard Table. Whatever size your room there is a Riley table to fit it. Riley's Miniature Tables to fit on your own dining table from £3/7/6. Riley's Combine Billiard and Dining Tables from £13 10s. to £32. Prices include all accessories, carriage paid to nearest railway station in the United Kingdom. Cash or Easy Payments.

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E. J. RILEY, LTD., Tiber Works, Accrington.
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"NOVEMBER FOGS"

—though they have not this year visited us in November, are assuredly merely delayed, and will certainly give us visitations as frequent as in the past. . . . But this is not to be a dissertation on Fogs in general and November Fogs in particular, and the condition of climate is only concerned so far as it affects the cyclist. In short, we wish to talk to you about a little Bicycle Lamp of particular brilliance; this is the "Ever Ready" Electric Bicycle Lamp.

In the first place the "Ever Ready" is London made throughout. It is fitted with the new "Ever Ready" Dry Battery, is made of best Nickel-plate, has a White Enamelled Reflector and is fitted with a Metallic Filament Bulb, which gives a light of the utmost brilliance and penetration. The side screw with which it is fitted for fixing on bracket ensures an absolute clearance of the brake. Height 4 inches over all, weight complete 18 ozs.

Price **8/6**

Spare refills, 9d. each; spare bulbs, each 1 s. each complete.
Each Battery will give about 15 hours of light.
Carriage Paid throughout British Isles.

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GOLD MEDAL TAILORING.

Our Unique Achievement.

Two Gold Medal Awards this Year.

One at the Coronation Exhibition,
White City, and one at the Festival
of Empire, Crystal Palace.

The Curzon tailoring is something more
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Curzon cut is something outside the realm of mere draftsmanship. It means Distinction and Character. Well dressed men, not only in London and England, but all over the World, wear Curzon clothes.

We have on our books men famous in the Church, Doctors, Legal Celebrities, Literary Men, and, in fact, men prominent in every sphere of life.

Gold Medal Suits, To Measure from **27/6**
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Curzon garments are all sold with a guarantee—cash in full refunded where satisfaction is not given.

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FREE PATTERNS.—To those unable to pay a personal visit, perfect fitting garments are guaranteed by means of Curzon's Bros. registered illustrated measure chart, which will be sent post free together with a full range of samples, fashion plates, press notices and testimonials from well-known men on receipt of a postcard from those interested.

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Head Office: 60-62, City Road, E.C.

The John Bull League.

BRANCH REPORTS.

SHEFFIELD.—A very successful Whist Drive was held on Monday at the Imperial Hall, at which Dr. R. H. Wilson, the local Chairman, gave a short address on the aims and object of the League. At the conclusion of the Whist Drive prizes were presented to the winners by Mrs. Wilson. It has been decided to hold another Whist Drive soon, and particulars will be announced shortly. An excellent supper was provided by Mr. Lockwood, the proprietor of the hall.

MANCHESTER.—The Annual General Meeting of this branch was held in the Chorlton-on-Medlock Town Hall on Dec. 5. In moving the adoption of an exhaustive report of the work of the branch, the General Secretary dealt with a variety of matters affecting the organisation and future policy of the League. He was followed by Mr. E. G. Simpson, a member of the Manchester Board of Guardians and Treasurer of the branch, who made an interesting little speech. The Executive Committee were then appointed for the ensuing year. Councillor Ross Clyne being enthusiastically re-elected Chairman, Mr. Simpson, Treasurer, and Mr. F. Wardle, Local Secretary.

PLYMOUTH.—The Smoking Concert held in the Palm Court, Royal Hotel, on the 7th inst., was a great success. Mr. J. Stephens presided, and in his opening remarks referred to the President's announcement in JOHN BULL, and expressed the hope that the step taken by him would put an end to the prejudice which has been so prevalent. His remarks were cordially approved by all who were present. Mr. J. H. Lucas opened the concert with a pianoforte selection, and afterwards rendered his usual valuable assistance as accompanist. Many other old friends, amongst whom were Messrs. Syd Bostock, Geo. Harvey, Burrows, W. Baker, H. Edgell, contributed excellent items. The efforts of Miss Voysey, Messrs. C. Vaughan, Alan Williams, and F. Wyatt were well received. A very interesting exhibition was given by Professor Max Leuze, the undefeated Handcuff King. Humorous selections by Mr. Fred St. Clair, Mr. F. Marshall, and Messrs. Strick and Catling, of the "Dreadnought" Comedy Co., were much appreciated. During the evening the Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. W. H. Matthews, lucidly explained the outline of the proposed constitution, and the same was cordially received by the members.

BIRMINGHAM.—Will members kindly note that the Smoking Concert, which had been arranged for to-morrow (Friday) evening has been postponed until early in the New Year?

"JOHN BULL'S" BIRTHDAY ODES.

By "RETLAW."

December 17th.—SIR HERBERT BEERBOHM TREE.

When Beerbohm Tree in '53
His first appearance made,
His earliest role was tragedy—
And earnestly he played;
His doting parents he deceived,
And when he grieved, they also grieved;
They shuddered at his piercing screams,
He was so realistic—
He'd rouse them nightly from their dreams
With howlings most artistic.

When infancy was over, he
Dropped tragedy for comedy,
With now and then a touch, maybe,
Of melodrama thrilling—
As when, face downwards, he would kick
In vain against his father's stick
When he had earned a grilling.

To Germany he next was sent
And there awhile in school was pent,
But nothing turned him from his bent—
The actor's life he still declared for;
He played Old Harry with the Dona,
Acted the ass upon the pons
(If this is libellous, the con-
Sequences I'm prepared for).

Since then, whate'er the stage has power
Upon its favourites to shower,
Fame, money—well, he's got 'em;
A knighthood, too. But though he plays
Kings, chiefs, and priests of other days
(We say it not in his dispraise)
His better part is Bottom.

The Medical Press and the Remarkable Experiments with BOVRIL on men and animals.

"The results were simply startling."—*Medical Times.*

The report on the nutritive value of Bovril read before the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association is attracting wide attention in the medical profession.

The "British Medical Journal" of September 16 devoted some six pages to a detailed account of the recent experiments, in which it was shown that in the case of human beings the body-building power of Bovril was "even more marked" than had been previously shown in the experiments with animals. A further article has just appeared in the "Medical Times," and the following extracts are of universal interest. The "Medical Times" first points out that the experiments were originally conducted "with the object of ascertaining whether a certain beef extract (Bovril) supplied to the Government had

any nutritive value or not. The results were simply startling."

"It was found that in all cases the administration of the extract (Bovril) caused an immediate increase of weight."

"In subject C (human) it was found after the use of 10 grams of Bovril the mean increase of weight was 129 grams, whilst in subject S (human) the mean increase after the use of 10 grams of the same extract was no less than 216 grams. In each series of experiments on the dogs it was found that the actual increase in weight varied from ten to twenty times the weight of the dry solids added in the shape of the extract to the food, whilst in the human experiments the increase was even more marked."

One important point brought out by these experiments is the fact

that this increase in weight is in tissue and muscle, and not merely fat, showing that Bovril must therefore be regarded as a true nutrient and an essential part of the diet of every man, woman and child.

EXPERIMENTS ON HUMAN BEINGS.

10 grams of Bovril were used in each case.

Two examples, the figures being taken from the table published in the "British Medical Journal."

Experiment	Mean Weight during previous interval in Kilos.	Mean Weight during Feeding period in Kilos.	Mean Increase in Grams	Nitrogen of Extract in Grams
Subject S.	84.032	84.248	216	0.920
Subject C.	61.661	61.790	129	0.920

Body-building power proved to be from 10 to 20 times amount taken.

The BEST XMAS No. of the YEAR

That is the . . .
Popular Verdict of

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THE COMBINED
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OF
JOHN BULL & Mrs. BULL



68 Pages
of Cheerful,
Seasonable
Fare.

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A FEW ITEMS:

- A Goodwood Gamble
- Indian Stories
- The Injuncted Ghost
- A Christmas Convert
- Christmas Crackers
- The Haunted Man
- The Christmas Dinner

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this season. Price 2d., of
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stalls.

THE DEMAND IS ENORMOUS.

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DAMP-PROOF AND
NON-SQUEAKING.

Unique indeed, for how many men are wearing
boots to-day that they can rely upon to carry them
to and from business without getting damp feet?

And, bear in mind, this is done without making the
boot heavier in the least degree. It is simply a thin
sheet of rubber inserted between the inner and outer
soles that repels the damp, but it is the way it is in-
serted and secured that is a secret to ourselves. No
rubber comes near the foot, so that there is no
"draw" in the feet as in Over-shoes or Rubber-shoes.

Send for a pair of these smart walking boots to-day
and protect you self against the ill effects of damp
feet.

14/9 POST FREE.

DESCRIPTION.

No. 1689. Finest (self-cured) Rubber Calf upper,
whole gosh, no side seams, unbreakable
jockey back strip, leather lined,
straight toe-cap, gosh and facing
punched as illustrated.
Best English Leather
sole, specially selected.
Best workmanship.
superb finish. Built
on the new "Dressed"
process. Warrented
damp proof and non-
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THE "BARRATT" SYSTEM OF SIZES AND WIDTHS.

Gentlemen's Dry-
shod "Footshape"
Boots are made in
eight different sizes
5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
(size 12, 1-
extra). Each
size in four
different widths
No. 3 width
for slender
feet; No. 4
(medium); No.
5 (wide); No.
6 (extra wide).

In case of
mistake we
gladly ex-
change, or
refund your
cash in full.



No. 1689
FROM THE FACTORY
TO YOUR DOOR

POST
FREE

14/9

HOW TO ORDER.

Simply state size (length) usually worn, then the width according to the
shape of your foot. If narrow, order No. 3 width; if medium, No. 4
width; if wide, No. 5 width; if extra wide, No. 6 width.

W. BARRATT & CO., LTD.,

Dept. 66, "Footshape" Boot & Shoe Manufacturers,
Sterling Works, NORTHAMPTON.



Of all Tobacconists and Stores

Best vulcanite
mouthpieces
scientifically
constructed
to minimize
the pressure
upon the teeth.

This unique design, made in all
the favourite patterns, ensures
a thoroughly cool and comfortable smoke.
The general excellence of this pipe will delight
even the most discriminating smoker.

Price 2/6 each.

(Silver mounted)

WHY BE COLD AT XMAS?

See Page 881.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.

AUTHORS and **ARTISTS** submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).

The Editor cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.

C. E. T. (Middlesbrough).—We have our eye on the German Crown Prince.

J. A. A. (Glasgow).—We are not responsible for the pictures by means of which our advertisers draw attention to their wares.

T. C. (Portsmouth) tells us some very horrid and disgusting facts about Chinese Pork. He has quite put us off our chop-chop.

"AN INITIO" (Brighton) asks why we have said nothing about the Burgess Cup and cheque. We suppose it is our natural modesty. They were duly handed over to the Channel conqueror on the John Bull League Day at the Crystal Palace.

P. G. P. (Lincoln) sends us a postcard that was posted at Ramsgate, August 3rd, 1910, and delivered in Lincoln, November 20th, 1911. Better late than never.

AN ANONYMOUS READER sends us the following "hymn" to be sang on publication of the *Lay Lawyer*:

Lawyers, now pull up your hose;
Cast your dreams of fees away
No more paying through the nose
From to day.

H. P. (Hampstead).—Fried fish wrapped up in JOHN BULL may not always be good to eat, but the wrapper will always be good to read.

R. R. G. (Stamford Hill) suggests that Lloyd George is suffering from a "Nitch" complaint. We notice he usually comes up to scratch.

T. H. (Oxford).—We are not a bit surprised at anything the Salvation Army does.

Mrs. H. (Camden Town) tells us she sent 2s. 6d. to the *Rug and Carpet Co.*, Shipley, Yorks, for their "magnificent assortment of drapery. . . in all, over three dozen articles" (vide advt.), and discovered that the parcel contained boot-laces, shirt-buttons and hooks and eyes, which had been counted as separate articles. One can't expect much for 2s. 6d., but this lot does not appear very "magnificent"; it is not straight commerce.

"A MANCHESTER READER" complains that the *Bishop of the Diocese* has not yet visited three of his poorest churches. Would they be very much better off if he did?

N. G. D. (Barnstable).—We certainly agree that the aged inmate of the Warwick Workhouse deserved a more substantial, or at least more useful, reward for his act of bravery than the Royal Humane Society's 3rd Class Certificate, which he had the moral courage to refuse.

"A READER" (Taunton).—You have no remedy. The advertisement plainly says that the furs will be sent on payment of the last of 14 weekly instalments of 1s. But why send to Scotland at all? Are there no rabbits in Devonshire?

H. C. (Spitalfields).—If the *Insurance Bill* will affect working shoemakers in the manner you state, the sooner it is given the "order of the boot" the better.

"GREEN 'UN" (Oldham).—Some *Continental Lotteries* may be more or less honest, but as for the one you mention, well—Oh! Sofia!

"BRESOS" (Plumstead) suggests that if we had been by his side at the Caledonian Road Cattle Market Slaughterhouse on a Sunday morning eighteen years ago, we would eat no more *English pig*. This sounds mysterious. We wonder why?

Mrs. A. (Halesden).—You have no remedy. You did not read the *trick advertisement* carefully, or you would have seen that the goods would not be sent until the last instalment was paid. As to the *Prudential policies*, write to the head office, giving full particulars, and ask them what is the surrender value. But don't send the policies.

W. R. B. (Forest Hill), referring to a recent "biscuit," tells us that it is quite possible to post oneself at the Post Office, it being provided for in the P.O. Regulations, and that he has done it himself. It is the stamping and post-marking part of it we should dislike.

"EDINBURGH READER."—We know nothing whatever about the "*Bottonley Social Club*," and have always declined to associate the name either of this journal, or its Editor, with any such institution.

M. K. (Aberdare) tells us of a Welsh postmaster who charges twopence for serving stamps after closing time. How this would amuse the Postmaster-General!

H. K. (London, S.E.) thinks our recent questions to Mr. A. Kensit were impertinent. They were certainly pertinent.

Mr. O. E. WATTS (4, Culford Road, Southgate Road, N.) will be pleased to hear from all and sundry who would like to have particulars of the *National Union of Hair Assistants*.

Mr. T. W. OFFIN, JUN., the author of "*How the Germans Took London—Forewarned, Forearmed*," corroborates our views and thinks, with us, "it would be far cheaper, wiser, and more humane, to enter upon our task forthwith."

R. L. (Midlothian) complains that he was engaged as valet to Mr. Maxwell Blake, the American Consul-General at Tangier, and at the last moment his engagement was cancelled. He asks what remedy he has. We will think the matter over between now and the publication of the *Lay Lawyer*.

"ASHMOVE" (Yeovil) protests that Mr. Henry Ticey was not "dumped" upon South Somerset, but was "chosen by a deputation from the Liberal Association." But how did the Association get into touch with him? We are glad to know, however, that he has left a good impression behind him with his local supporters, who "hope that he will stand again at the next election." So do we.

"TRENT" (Beeston).—Our latest information is that tickets for the *Calcutta Turf Club sweepstakes* are supplied to members only.

W. T. (Malvern Link).—We advise you to have nothing to do with *Bo's Weekly competitions*, nor with anyone puffing them or offering solutions. We are the only genuine Bot.

G. W. W. (London, S.E.) and others.—We note our views regarding the *C.O.D. parcel post* do not please you; but when you say we are down on the small tradesman you are mistaken. The motor delivery vans do you more harm than ever the C.O.D. system could, or would.

"AN ABERDONIAN" takes the trouble to inform us that *Kingscote* is not in his county but in Invernesshire. It sounds and looks more like the name of a kraal on the Upper Congo.

"ANTI-CANT" (London).—Rather late in the day for the Rev. F. A. Meyer to object to *The Dawn of Love*. What?

F. L. B. (Kanturk). The question of *Sterilising the unfit* is a big one. In the first place it would be necessary to overcome the opposition of the unfit, who, speaking broadly, constitute the bulk of the population. For our own part, we would not object to the sterilisation of some of the fit of our acquaintance.

"A LOVER OF JUSTICE" (Nairobi) disapproves of the sentence passed on the Hon. Galbraith Cole, thinking it too severe. We also disapprove of it, but for another reason.

T. G. B. (Scunthorpe).—We note from the cutting you sent us that the Conservative party is about to rise "sphinx-like" from its ashes. This sounds ominous for the Radicals. We shall read of "the riddle of the Phoenix" next.

"NINE SERVANTS" (London) and many others write protesting against the *Servant Tax*. All we are prepared to say at the moment is that (if it passes) it

Will make those lick who never licked before,

And those who sometimes licked will lick the more.

T. A. G. (Handsworth) sends us a cutting about some writing ink 3,500 years old. Our correspondent appears to have used some of it in writing to us.

"A WOMAN" (Reading) asks us to give her Lloyd George, and she will show him how to "stamp." Sorry we can't give him away.

R. E. (Pontypool).—If you had done nothing wrong, why did you ask him to forgive you?

W. E. W. (Dartmouth).—The *Board of Trade* consists of the President, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Speaker of the Irish Parliament (1) and the principal Secretaries of State.

W. R. G. (Burnley).—Dear, dear us. You "wish to know what *Tarif Reform* really is"—and Christmas time too.

A. B. (North Molton).—You say "as *whist drives* are illegal." But one stipendiary does not make a Solomon, you know; and apparently your vicar is putting his trust in the Lords. An article on whist drives and women recently appeared in *Mrs. Bull*.

J. A. (Limerick).—You suggest that when we go to Erin to study Home Rule on the spot we should come to Limerick. Got plenty of the cratur there?

H. H. (Birmingham).—In the circumstances of your sending out openly the printed circulars offering commission, and withdrawing them as soon as you realised they were within the meaning of the Act, we think the fine of 40s. and £10 14s. costs wick d.

F. C. (Cardiff).—When the *Aberdare Stipendiary* said he "could not understand why women wanted enlargements of their husbands' portraits, and should think they would prefer to have them reduced," he may have been dreamily thinking of the saying of Swift (or somebody else) that fleas are always drawn larger than life, and elephants smaller.

F. C. P. (City Road, N.) wishes to know whether the "*Home of the Holy Childhood*, Clapton Common, London," is a genuine charity. It is a strange question, having regard to the fact that the name of the Bishop of London is printed as a visitor on the front page of the report and balance sheet, and that the bankers are the London County and Westminster Bank. What does our correspondent mean by "genuine charity"?

R. T. A. (Bournemouth).—It is hereby reported, on your information, that the *Bournemouth public libraries* are always out of date with their Army List. Perhaps the Corporation requires time to examine its pages to see whether the editor is concealing betting news.

D. R. (Rugeley).—Cannot afford a biscuit to the *Rugeley Mercury* for announcing that "The Archbishop of Stafford then recessed the meeting." After all, it may be that the editor was only paying a harmless compliment to some young curate.

W. H. A. (Rushden).—It does seem rather mean of the sergeant to notice that your four-months-old puppy was without a collar, and to summon you when you were under the impression that dogs had not to be muzzled under six months old, and the 10s. fine inclusive was rough. Ignorantia non excusat legem; which means that the law does not excuse little dogs.

"A RATEPAYER" (Bov) thinks it a scandalous insult to the attendants at the underground conveniences in Stepney that they should have to work under the supervision of, and share their private lobby with, a C.I.D. man, or detective, who costs the Stepney ratepayers £1 a week. But we don't suppose the C.I.D. men relish the job overmuch themselves.

"A READER" (No Address) inquires whether it is safe to get married. We could judge better if we saw the lady.

"DERBY READER" wants us to inform the world at large exactly what we are, because so many people are labouring under the delusion that we are a barrister or a solicitor or something else equally bad, if not worse. We therefore again take the opportunity to announce that we are none of these things.

"CONSTANT READER" (Saffron Walden) suggests that it would be only fair to the *Rev. F. B. Meyer* that we should publish the pamphlet which we have condemned. We do not, however, desire to spend Christmas in gaol!

A. D. (Clapham).—We certainly believe in *freedom of speech*; but you must admit that the average freethinking stump orator's speech is often a little too free.

"KISWASTI" (Manor Park, E.) thinks the *Territorial Force* is going to the dogs, and suggests that State supported rifle clubs would be more serviceable. Almost anything would be better than what we've got.

P. D. (Beaumont, Jersey).—"The MacPeavor Wrangles," by that humorous Scottish writer, Mr. A. P. Macdonald, originally appeared in the *People's Friend*, and were republished by them in book form. You could doubtless obtain the volume post free by sending them 7d., as also "The Adventures of the Hon. Leo Fantasia," by the same author. "The MacQuibble Squabbles" could be found in the earlier numbers of our companion journal, *Mrs. Bull*, for which you should apply to the publishers.

J. A. D. AND J. L.—Please say for what object the postal order for 1s. is intended.

"CHIEF EXAMINER," apropos of "Humbuggel's" complaint that Scotchmen do not win their fair share of prizes in competitions conducted by our contemporaries, says the reason is that the Crown counsel of Scotland have seen fit to bar that country from most competitions. Undoubtedly it is no wish of the editors to shut out north of the Tweed readers.

"LORD ROBERTS" (Cork).—We are averse from advertising any *Continental letter* in these columns. We do not think we deserve a biscuit for printing "police" in place of "policy." In the light of our recent disclosures of *industrial insurance methods*, there is sufficient warranty for confusing the two terms.

"TRADE UNION MAN."—The Factory Act allows laundry hands to work 60 hours a week, and the working hours are usually 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

F. A. B. (Poplar).—We have read your protest, but you must settle the grievance amongst yourselves; JOHN BULL does not agree with mixing religion with secular entertainments.

W. D. C. (Kingsbridge) tells us that the following *gruesome announcement* appeared in the "Woodleigh Deanery Parish Magazine":—"It is proposed for the sake of keeping the churchyard in better order shortly to level the old mounds. Those who particularly wish the mounds over their graves to be retained are asked to communicate their wishes to the vicar." If the defunct take him at his word, we can see that vicar having a lively time.

L. T. (Sheffield) wants our Tame Phrenologist to feel the Bishop of London's and the Archbishop of Canterbury's bumps. We will endeavour to make the necessary appointments.

A. G. (Gravesend) enjoys the "Imaginary Interviews," but thinks Mr. Walter Moore unfairly monopolises the talking. We must have a real interview with Mr. Moore.

A. K. (Bristol) maintains that if the water power of the River Severn were utilised the City of Bristol would benefit to the tune of £50,000 a year. When Bristol has a Business Member little things like that will receive attention.

E. R. C. (Romford) says "Ricardo" knows nothing about the Boy Scouts, or he would not have written what he did. "Ricardo," however, scouts the cruel suggestion.

G. M. (Cardiff).—It is quite useless to expect to get satisfaction from fraudulent turf commission agents who work their little games from Switzerland or other places on the Continent. The only remedy you have is to let them severely alone in the future.

F. S. (Jamalpur, India).—We prefer not to recommend any turf tipster. Surely you can lose your money easily enough in India without sending it home.

G. C. (Hampstead Heath).—We have read your pamphlet on the "Organisation of Buying." We are still alive, but we would not care to go through the ordeal again.

"AMBITIOUS" (Clapham).—Write to the Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster.

T. E. H. (Hull).—It seems to us that if the pay of *inquests* on inquests was increased, the evil you mention (semi-professionalism) would become greater.

"REDWING" (Shaw Mills).—If we were 40; unmarried; we'd up in music; a general handy man; and possessed of a capital of £200, we would not continue to work in a factory for the rest of our natural life at 24s. a week. But ideas differ.

E. P. (Bedford).—We would hesitate before we purchased an *Auto-knitter* for £7 10s. on the terms you mention. Suppose they said your work was not up to the mark, and refused to take it?

"SOL AND JOE" (Guernsey).—The only lottery we care to recommend is—marriage.

"LEEDS"—We always look with suspicion on advertisements offering successful applicants a high salary, on condition of taking up shares.

E. P. (Chingford).—We are certainly in favour of exempting hospitals and infirmaries from both Imperial and local taxation.

C. A. W. (Birmingham) has received by post particulars of a cure for red noses, together with an assurance that his "case" has been registered. This surprises him, because his nasal organ is of the normal tint. All the same, it has evidently been taken as red!

"JACOB" (Llangollen).—You have been "plucked," both in the case of the pigeon show and the other. But better to put up with it, like the pigeon, than take legal proceedings.

"GOLD" (Hackney Wick).—We do not know whether the people you mention do what they say but it is a *trick advertisement*, and looks suspicious.

"A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND" (Kensington) complains of having to stand while the clergy read long lists of notices. We can't stand it ourselves.

J. J. (Leicester) having been lucky enough to win a prize in a lottery wants to risk his money in another, and asks for our advice. We cannot improve on—Don't!

T. C. (Portsmouth) wants us to publish a 3d. morning paper. Just imagine the consternation in Fleet Street if we did.

G. W. (Liverpool).—You have been tricked by an *unscrupulous book-cavasser*. Although you may have to pay for the books, you can avenge yourself by refusing to read them.

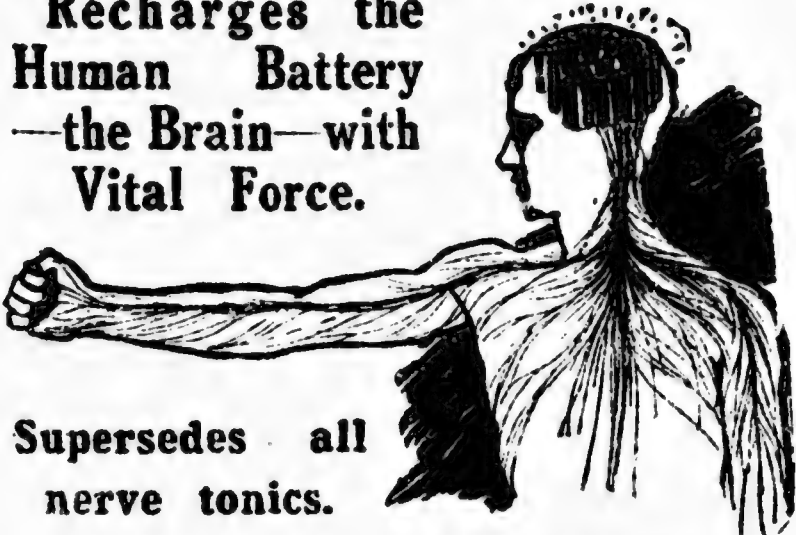
H. V. (Ludendenfoot).—Libellous; so you do not send the evidence.

[We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.]

THE ONLY CURE FOR BRAIN FAG, "NERVES"
AND "WORRY."

"**BRAININE**"

Recharges the
Human Battery
—the Brain—with
Vital Force.



Supersedes all
nerve tonics.

GUARANTEED FREE FROM STRYCHNINE

Or any other poisonous drug.

From MR. HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, M.P.

"You may certainly give me as a reference as to the remarkable qualities of BRAININE. Most of my clerks now take it regularly, as well as myself—and I think we get through more work than any other office in London, AND ARE NEVER TIRED. Why don't you advertise it?"

That is how we came to advertise. Hitherto, our sales have been effected by purely private means. Now we are taking a special factory for the manufacture of Brainine—and we hope that before long it will be on sale in every chemist's shop in the Kingdom.

BRAININE is perfectly harmless and free from poison. It may be taken by the strong and the delicate alike, and by persons of either sex. It is of special value to clerks; and all persons having to deal with figures; to lecturers; teachers and pupils. It is no quack medicine, being prepared from the prescription of an eminent physician, who has made a special study of the brain.

Brainine Goes Straight to the Brain.

In the past, the medical profession has been at sea in regard to the most prevalent complaint of the twentieth century—"Nerves."

They have treated the Nerves—that is to say, the electric wires—instead of the Brain—that is to say, the BATTERY. That has been the big mistake.

It may be taken for granted that with the ever-increasing rush and bustle of modern life, "Nerves"—lassitude, irritability, "worry," insomnia—will become an ever-growing complaint. The drain on the Brain is twenty times greater to-day than it was fifty years ago; and if it is to stand the strain, THE BATTERY MUST BE RECHARGED FROM TIME TO TIME.

THAT is the great virtue of BRAININE. It is useless to tinker with the nerves, if the source of all their activity—the Brain—is "below par." When the battery is low the current must run out. BRAININE recharges the Brain.

BRAININE is sold in boxes at 1s. 1d.—best free to any address in the United Kingdom.

AN APOLOGY.

The Proprietors have to ask indulgence owing to the enormous demand which has arisen. The stock of "BRAININE" pellets ran quite out, but further supplies are now arriving daily, and orders are being executed with all possible speed.

THE BRAININE COMPANY 23 TO 28, FLEET STREET
LONDON, E.C.

BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—

How will the Lords "meet" the Insurance Bill?
 Was "Leave it to you, partners," the right Opposition game?
 Isn't Germany's a "straight-forward" policy?
 Does the Government want Home Rule passed—over?
 Isn't the Servants' Tax "a regular licker"?
 Will all the "stamps" be stuck on the forms?
 Wouldn't a postal strike be a Christmas box (on the ear) for the Postmaster-General?
 Don't some doctors call it the "Generally Meddlesome Council"?
 Isn't the public whist drive more "gamboil" than "gamble"?
 Aren't female bathing costumes a bit thick already?
 Was "Sh-aunt" what King Alfonso said to Princess Fátima?
 Should a man who comes to "find out" be "found out"?
 Aren't there still some Rock-y-fellers in the Standard Oil Company?
 Do telephone operators really show a lack of "nerve"?

A doctor predicts that we shall, in time, become a one-toed race. Those who suffer from corns will be glad to hear this.

The popularity of the Christmas ghost is on the wane, but good spirits are always welcome.

A solicitor at Greenwich declared that a man was intoxicated "seven or eight nights a week." He must have seen double on Saturdays.

Gustave Monkeyaut was the name of a defendant at Shoreditch. We cannot trace him in Zoo's Who.

That trip in a submarine shows that Mr. Churchill means to get at the bottom of things.

"The only bad kind of reading is easy reading," says Mr. Holbrook Jackson. Like Holbrook's sauce!

Arab reinforcements are said to be causing uneasiness amongst the Italian troops in Tripoli. Well, they are sent for that.

An Ohio woman who has just celebrated her hundredth birthday claims that she has never been kissed. She holds a record that few of her sex will covet.

The Swiss beggar, who lined his coat with £5,600 in banknotes, was what is known in Ireland as a "warm" man.

Colonel Seely says the British soldiers are "the salt of the earth." But they can give the enemy pepper when mustered.

A telegram has been sent from New York right round the earth in 16 minutes—about half the time it takes to send one from London to Putney.

A widow with ten children has married a widower with ten children. Will they add to the score?

The Aldwych Theatre has been sold to Mr. Joseph Beecham; but there is no truth in the rumour that you will be able to get a box for 1s. 1½d.

The Japanese have a prejudice against visible stitches on their clothing. No one likes looking on the seamy side.

"Biers on Sale," is an announcement on the menu of a Brussels restaurant. Evidently deal stuff.

An authority says eight million tons of rain recently fell on one day. No wonder the clouds had to drop it.

"The Heathen in Britain," says a heading. There certainly are too many Idles.

A correspondent wishes to know whether the change at the Admiralty will McKenna difference.

If Ananias could pay another visit to this world how horribly conceited he would be.

"There is nothing so health-giving as a singing-class," says a doctor. It is the neighbours who have the complaints.

Open Letter to "John Bull."

December 16th, 1911.

Dear John,

Upon your choice of a shaving soap depends the comfort of your chin for a long time. Can you afford to take the risk of having months of discomfort and annoyance by experimenting with a foreign shaving stick? Of course not—not while you can make sure of a comfortable easy shave for the best part of a whole year by buying the "Erasmic" Shaving Stick—British and Best.

If you don't know how much better the "Erasmic" Shaving Stick is than any other, send 2d. stamps for a Free Trial Stick. Money refunded if you are not satisfied.

What could be fairer?

Yours truly,

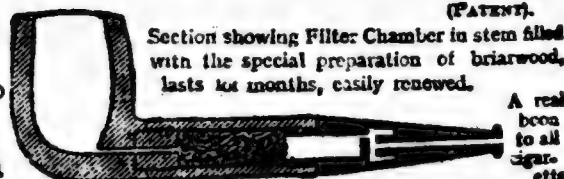
"ERASMIC."

The Erasmic Co., Ltd.

(Dept. K), Warrington.

Everyone IS TALKING ABOUT THE SALUSBURY PIPE

NO OTHER
 PATENT PIPE
 HAS EVER CAUSED
 SUCH A
Sensation



The smoke is filtered and purified. No nicotine. No spitting. No burning sensation. No smoker's throat. No bad nerves. The smoker obtains a BETTER ENJOYMENT OF THE TOBACCO. It is unquestionably the best Pipe in the market. Smokers are UNANIMOUS in its praise and orders are pouring in by the THOUSAND from all parts of the country. A Physician writes: "I am immensely impressed with the excellent qualities of your Pipe." A sportsman says: "In the purchase of your Pipe I am indeed backed a winner." From William Owen, Esq., Man. Director of Wm. Owen, Ltd., Westbourne Grove, W.: "I think very highly of your patent Pipe." From E. Smith, Esq., J.P., ex Deputy Chairman L.C.C.: "Your patent Pipe is in every way quite successful. It only wants to be known and tried to be surely used by Pipe Smokers." From W. Pendennis, Esq., J.P., G.O.: "It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Pipe I bought from you is the sweetest and coolest I have ever used. (HUNDREDS OF TESTIMONIALS.)

BEST BRIAR, HANDSOMELY SILVER MOUNTED, 5/6 Post Free. With box of refills. Illustrated Booklet gratis. THE SYMPLEX MFG. CO., 22, HARRISON ST., COVENT GARDEN, W.C.



May be
 obtained
 from all
 Wine and
 Spirit
 Merchants.

DUNVILLE'S

V R

WHISKY

In 3, 6, and
 12 Bottle
 Cases.



Insist on seeing "BOTTLED BY DUNVILLE & CO. LTD." on the Capsule and Back label. NONE OTHER GUARANTEED GENUINE.

Write direct for name of nearest retailer to

DUNVILLE & CO. Ltd., Belfast or London.



Robinson & Cleaver's HANDKERCHIEFS

for Gifts. Post orders for handkerchiefs can be received up to Friday, Dec. 22nd, for Xmas.

No. 317. Ladies' Superfine Mull hemstitched and embroidered Handkerchiefs. Tiny flowers forming d. sign. About 13 ins. square. **3/9**

No. 1.0. Ladies' Fine Linen hemstitched Handkerchiefs, with any initial in wheat and blue fly surround. Design 13 in. x 13 ins square. **7/11**

No. 58. Gentlemen's Linen Handkerchiefs, with any 1 in initial in "Old English" style; 20 ins. square, with 1 in. hem. **11/9**

Write for our
Illustrated List
and Samples.
Free on request.

Robinson & Cleaver, Ltd.

London. 44, E. Donegall Place. BELFAST. Liverpool.

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STOCKS AND SHARES DEPARTMENT.

READERS of "John Bull" who deal in Stocks and Shares, quoted or unquoted, should transact their business through Farrow's Bank—well-known and popular Stocks and Shares Department. The Bank deals only with the leading Members of the Stock Exchange.

Full particulars and Prospectus post free on application to the MANAGER, Stocks and Shares Department

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HEAD OFFICE:

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ASTHMA SUFFERERS.

Instant Relief in Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup and Whooping Cough by the use of **POTTER'S Asthma Cure**, in 1/- Tin. Sold every where. For FREE SALES and post card to **POTTER & CLARKE, LTD.**, Artillery Lane, London, E. (Mention this Magazine).

Instant Relief.



JUNON BUST DEVELOPER

is a wonderful preparation that really does develop the bust.

Simple in its use and action—one can carry out the treatment in one's own private room—without trouble or inconvenience of any kind.

Its low price places a perfect development within the reach of all, and any woman who has hitherto been secretly worried about her shrunken and unhealthy appearance should commence this treatment at once.

Send **5/6** and this new and unfailing preparation will be mailed you by return post free, in plain and sealed wrapper.

Junon Bust Developer is prepared only by the Proprietors and is GUARANTEED HARMLESS.

Rexine



The Modern Furniture Covering.

There is no difference in appearance between Rexine and leather

—the grains and colourings are identical, but Rexine wears better since it is

scratch and stain proof, and may be easily washed if soiled.

You can have your furniture re-upholstered in Rexine quite cheaply—the cost of the material being about one-fourth that of leather.

Ask your furniture dealer to show you patterns of Rexine to harmonize with the rest of your furniture.

In case of difficulty, write

The British Leather Cloth Manufacturing Co., Ltd.,
K8 HYDE, near MANCHESTER.

MARKETING ABILITY

Generally perking the delicate work of Marketing Ability can be best left to Hapgoods. One side of our large Organisation is devoted to this work—the other being devoted to the finding of Men of Special Ability for Employers. We deal only with High-grade Men capable of filling positions carrying salaries of £150 to £1,000 per annum. If you are such a man, write us to day.

HAPGOODS Ltd, 167 & STRAND, LONDON W.C.

JUNON Hair TONIC

Restores gloss and Brilliance—stops hair falling—nourishes and strengthens the roots—removes dandruff—positively makes the hair grow—is a beneficial and pleasant dressing for daily use.

Recommended for use in conjunction with JUNON Hair Stains.

Two kinds: Greasy for dry and brittle hair; Non-greasy for greasy hair.

Post **1/- & 2/6** Free

Securely packed in plain package.

JUNON Hair STAIN

This is the only permanent and really satisfactory one-solution hair stain—absolutely harmless—perfectly natural tints—easily applied in one operation—defies detection—does not stain the skin.

In Eight Standard Shades:—Black, Dark Brown, Medium Brown, Chestnut, Golden Chestnut, Light Golden Chestnut, Golden, Light Golden.

Post **1/- & 2/9** Free

Securely packed in plain package.

JUNON Ltd., Marsham St., Westminster S.W.



A NUGGET Boot Polishing 1 OUTFIT

A
MOST USEFUL
GIFT



RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTINGA.

("Larry Lynx" of THE PEOPLE, "Double U. L." of LOTINGA'S WEEKLY, and "Magpie" of THE GLOBE.)

Medley.

Unless you are "in the robbery" nowadays, a backer has very little chance.

The bookmakers with the least money are usually the loudest voiced.

Who is the young sportsman who has only "lasted" as an owner for five weeks?

A Novel Sporting Club.

That there has been need for such a Club has always been obvious, for the present associations which are really sporting are more confined to the wagering side of racing. But the new premises of the Globe Club in Shaftesbury Avenue have been taken and magnificently furnished more as a social club among every class of sportsman and athlete, and to make its list of members comprehensive as well as substantial, only a nominal subscription fee of one guinea has been fixed at the outset. I am speaking from actual experience when I recommend my readers to join—for it will not alone be the rendezvous of everybody in the sporting world, but if we want to have a wager it will mean that we get the proper market price. Whilst for betting at S.P. there is the certainty that among their fellow members—which include most of the leading commission agents of the day—there will be no default. And who wouldn't pay a guinea to ensure that when one does win a bet he gets his money? The promotion of the club is a very sensible idea, and it cannot but succeed.

Prophetic.

Windsor's second day provides the best thing of the week in

LACE

for the Hurdle Handicap, for this is a nice young horse, big and strong enough for the game. With Escott's stable in such form, he will, of course, be at a very pinched price.

On Friday BENDY TREE ought to gain the Winter Handicap at Lingfield, being of so much better class than the few platers against him, whilst LITTLE BROTHER will, anyhow, get the course in the Hunters' Steeplechase. An erstwhile inmate of the Alfriston stable, PROUD BIRD, looks the pick of the Year's End Handicap on Saturday, and YONDER, who ran so well at Sandown, in better company, should carry the top weight home in the Stewards' Steeplechase.

Plenty of Money to be Made during the

JUMPING SEASON

If you do your business with

DOUGLAS STUART

Whose world famous Term

NO LIMIT COMBINED WITH PLACE BETTING

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Letters must bear not later than 2 p.m. postmark on Saturday. FOOTBALL CHAT, Nov. 22, 1911, says: "Established firms of repute such as Messrs White, Fisher and Co. conduct their business with a scrupulous fairness and impartiality that could well provide an object lesson to many commercial houses."

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FOOTBALL

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18/1 against 6 Home Teams; 27/1 7 H. T.; 18/1 3 Away Teams; 33/1 4 A. 1.; 10/1 2 Draws; 27/1 1 H. and 3 A.; 35/1 2 H. and 1 A.; 74/1 3 H. and 3 A.; 42/1 4 H. and 2 A.; 83/1 4 H. and 3 A.; 58/1 5 H. and 2 A.; 102/1 5 H. and 3 A.; 3/1 1 H. and 1 Draw; 18/1 2 H. and 1 Draw; 21/1 3 H. and 1 Draw; 29/1 4 H. and 1 Draw; 38/1 5 H. and 1 Draw.

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Louis design mahogany bedroom suite, 28 guineas; 6 ft. walnut bedroom suite, 40 guineas; 7 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, with bow front to wardrobe, 60 guineas; 7 ft. satinwood bedroom suite, 10 guineas; several inlaid chests, from 50s.; 6 ft. walnut wardrobe, 15 guineas; 6 ft. 6 in. mahogany wardrobe, fitted drawers and trays, 12 guineas; several iron bedsteads, from 9s.; black and brass bedsteads, 10s.; full size black and brass bedsteads, with wire springs, 21s.; 9 oak bedsteads, 15s.; pair brass twin bedsteads, 5 guineas; pair white and brass twin bedsteads, 8 guineas; inlaid Sheraton bedstead, including wire spring mattress, £1 15s.; full size all brass bedstead, 60s.; pair mahogany twin bedsteads, £2 19s. 6d.; full size all brass square tube Italian bedstead, 8 guineas, and several others up to 18 guineas. The Dining Room furniture comprises fumed oak dining room suite, consisting of large size sideboard, 6 chairs, 2 carving chairs, overmantel, dining table, rug, etc., will accept £13 7s. 6d. the lot; most massive carved oak Elizabethan design dining room set, consisting of sideboard with bevelled plate glass back, oxidised copper fittings, fitted cellarette, 6 massive carved oak chairs, and 2 carving chairs to match, dining table, 16 guineas the set; a similar set, with large sideboard and 2 lounge easy chairs, upholstered in red leather, 25 guineas; magnificent oak dining room suite, £8 15s.; oak suite, in green pegamoid, £3 19s. 6d.; sideboard to match, 4 guineas; overmantel, 30s.; Queen Anne design dining room suite, £5 15s.; sideboard to match, £7 15s.; dining table, £2 15s.; handsome Queen Anne design mahogany dining room set, upholstered in red leather, £7 19s. 6d.; dining table to match, 4 guineas; Chippendale design set of chairs, hall and claw feet, exquisite design, 12 guineas; oak, walnut and mahogany sideboards, large variety in stock, from £4 10s. to 40 guineas; about 50 odd dining room chairs; 20 dining tables, from 21s.; oak bureau, 21s.; pedestal writing tables; roll top desks, all sizes; revolving bookcases; a most superb Chesterfield, and 2 large club easy chairs to match in green leather, £15 10s.; mahogany secretaire bookcase, enclosed by 2 glass doors, cupboards under, 8 guineas. The Drawing Room furniture comprises very fine drawing room suite, upholstered in art tapestry, £3 10s.; another design suite, £3 10s.; satinwood finish drawing room suite, 7 guineas; an elegant design Louis XIV. gilt drawing room suite, £19 10s.; another set, similar design, 14 guineas; Chesterfield drawing room suite, with 2 large lounge easy chairs, and 4 solid mahogany chairs, most exquisite design, £12 19s. 6d.; large size double sprung Chesterfield and 2 large easy chairs to match, covered in silk tapestry, 23 guineas; set of Dutch Marquetrie chairs, 14 guineas; handsome design Vernis Marten cabinet, 16 guineas; another, 12 guineas; Buhl cabinet, 11 guineas; another, 14 guineas; table en suite, 8 guineas; Chesterfields, from £3 10s. to 10 guineas; Chippendale design cabinet, £2 19s. 6d.; similar one, £5 15s.; Sheraton design cabinet, £3 15s.; Sheraton design specimen table, 50s.; occasional tables, from 12s. 6d.; occasional chairs, 50 in stock, from 6s. 6d.; 2 white enamel over-mantels, 18s. 6d. and 27s. 6d.; oval gilt table, 10 guineas; pair 9-light candelabra, 6 guineas; 5-light candelabra 10 guineas; clock in ormolu case, £8 15s.; piano, 8 guineas; an upright piano, iron frame, £12 15s.; ditto, by Carl Strauss, 20 guineas; and several others in stock up to 40 guineas; grand pianos by Steinway, Bechstein, Bluthner, etc. Large stock of carpets, Tapestry, Mirzapore, Turkey, and Oriental carpets and rugs to match, from 18s. 6d.; a large variety of Axminster and Wilton carpets, always in stock, from £2 15s. 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Country buyers should call and inspect these goods. All goods delivered Town or Country free of charge, or can remain stored 12 months free of charge. All goods can be seen where they are now lying for the convenience of sale, any day from 9 till 9, except Saturday, when we close at 7 o'clock, at

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The following claims have been received for our issue of November 4th.

H. G. RUSH, 81, Canterbury Road, West Croydon.—No. 13311. 4th November.

GEORGE E. PRATT, 9, Elm Grove, Peckham, S.E.—No. 33170. 4th November.

ALFRED HOGARTH, 15, Angel Gardens, Columbia Road, Bethnal Green, N.E.—No. 51089. 4th November.

The following are the fifty numbers for the issue of November 18th:—

1984	164237	358955	522502	716250
8044	196068	371161	532343	724023
30238	212421	381623	551892	741490
52482	216938	406903	589401	743826
63603	232527	428593	611537	764843
78619	250604	441893	630387	821491
99930	266435	459772	640451	837352
115771	302708	478050	663271	861554
130956	309314	487190	686955	869335
148086	333640	511487	701590	872212

INITIAL NOTICES SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECKONED.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED JANUARY 13TH. (PUBLISHED JANUARY 11TH.)

The John Bull League.

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The General Secretary,

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